

CITY INSIGHT

www.KilleenTexas.gov

March 2023

(254) 501-7600

A Message from Mayor Debbie Nash-King



March is known for a lot of observances — Women's History Month and the first day of Spring, just to name a couple — but first I want to focus on Employee Appreciation, a day that was celebrated on March 3.

One thing that some of my great military leaders taught me was to always honor and recognize your team's good work. At the end of January/beginning of February, our City of Killeen staff — from Fire and Police, to Public Works and those behind the scenes — stepped up in a big way to ensure our citizens' safety during a winter storm.

Everyone worked together as one unit to keep our community prepared, informed and, most of all, safe. I encourage everyone to show their gratitude and respect for their employees' and coworkers' efforts, no matter where you work.

We also celebrate Read Across America this month and I've had the pleasure of meeting and reading to dozens of students across our area. Some of the most voracious readers grow up to be our leaders of tomorrow, so we want to encourage reading

and educate people about its benefits, especially among children and young adults.

This month is also set aside to honor women's contributions in American history and remind us of women's accomplishments to our culture and society. Women are empowered now more than ever, and I encourage girls and women to continue to help shape our nation.

Finally, as we kick off spring and the temperatures begin to warm up, there's a part of our community that may be forgotten. This year, we assisted in an annual count to measure homelessness in our community, as well as received valuable feedback on our Homeless and Mental Health Strategic Plan.

I implore residents to take an active role in addressing homelessness in Killeen. On any given night, there are at least 169 that go unsheltered in our city and that's just a snapshot. Our consultant has provided city and county-wide recommendations and we invite you to be involved as we begin to activate those recommendations.

Let's move forward together in 2023 to make Killeen an even better place to live for all residents.

Chief Kimble retires

After five years of dedicated service with the City of Killeen and 31 years in law enforcement, Chief Charles Kimble retired in January. Before coming to Killeen, Kimble served in Milwaukee, Wisc. and in Fayetteville and Spring Lake, N.C. The Killeen City Council voted unanimously on Aug. 8, 2017 to appoint Kimble as the city's police chief.

Since coming to Killeen, the overall crime rate has dropped, the city has started a homeless outreach program, the force has created a new downtown community engagement unit, and a new training division, officer training hours have doubled, and two new K9s have been added to the patrol division.

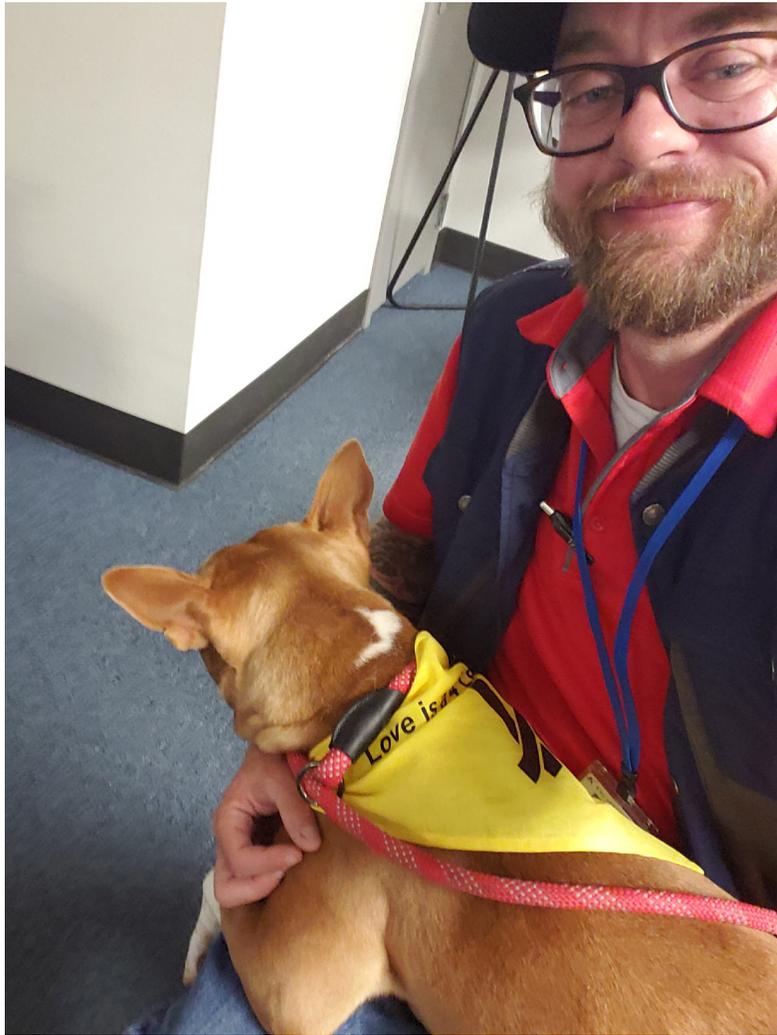
During his retirement ceremony, Chief Kimble reflected on his 30 years in law enforcement, noting when he began, things such as the Rodney King Riots and the Killeen Luby's, shooting were hot national news items.

Kimble has agreed to serve as interim chief as the city looks for his replacement.

Thank you, Chief Kimble for your dedicated service to the citizens of Killeen.



City Spotlight: Killeen Animal Services



This photo on the left is Johnny Dees (J.D.), a program coordinator with our Animal Services Department, and Mary. J.D. has been passionate about finding forever homes for the many animals in our shelter, as well as making sure that all the animals are comfortable and well-taken care of while waiting for their special human to find them. J.D. has been visiting elementary schools to talk about the shelter, he's been on the radio, and recently you may have seen J.D. on TV. This photo was taken while he visited KCEN-TV and took the adorable Mary with him. Thanks to that appearance, Mary was adopted in a matter of days and found a home (pictured below) where she's found two new brothers to play with in Leo and Boxer. There are plenty of others that still need a home. Visit the shelter today at 3118 Commerce Drive. The shelter is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come by and find your new family member today, and say hi to J.D. and all our amazing animal services staff.



Donations are always welcome, and we want to thank some groups who have brought donations by, including First National Bank (top), Triple 7 Friends (right), No Bark No Bite Dog Training (bottom) and St. Andrew's United Methodist Church (not pictured). We also appreciate all the other groups and individuals not mentioned here.



Killeen Animal Services

Ways for you to help:

Volunteer

www.KilleenTexas.gov/Animals

Foster

First, become approved volunteer, then you would be welcome to apply to be foster. Foster applications are available at the shelter at 3118 Commerce Drive.

Adopt

We always have cats, dogs and occasionally hamsters, rabbits, gerbils and snakes that are ready for their forever home.

Donate

Cans of kitten, cat, puppy and dog food, as well as blankets, treats and toys are always welcome donations.

Killeen Animal Services
3118 Commerce Drive
Killeen, Texas 76543
(254) 526-4455

Fort Hood Animal Shelter
Building 4902 Engineer Drive
Fort Hood, Texas 76544
(254) 287-4675

www.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/ANIMALS



Looking ahead

As winter winds down and the spring season swings into full force, it's time to mark your calendars for upcoming events. Below is the 2023 Downtown Events Calendar. Celebrate Killeen is the next event, and it takes place April 27-29. The three-day event celebrates the culture, history and diversity of our great city.

But also be sure to check our website (killeentexas.gov) and social media for information on upcoming sports leagues, Love Your Park Days, library events and upcoming Centex Race Series races.

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

Facebook: @KilleenTexas;
 Twitter: @CityofKilleen
 Instagram: @CityofKilleen;
 YouTube: @CityOfKilleenTX
 Website: killeentexas.gov

2023
City of Killeen

Upcoming Downtown Events

16 JAN	*MLK Day March (NAACP)	1 JULY	Independence Day Extravaganza
25 FEB	Motown in Downtown	9 SEPT	Touchdown in Downtown
27-29 APRIL	Celebrate Killeen Festival	11 NOV	*Veterans Day Parade (Central Texas Area Veterans Advisory Committee)
6 MAY	**Central Texas Asian Pacific Festival (Arts, Culture, & Traditions of Pasifika)	1-2 DEC	Holiday Under the Stars: Tree lighting & Jingle Bell Dash 5K
17 JUNE	*Juneteenth Parade (NAACP)	9 DEC	Holiday Under the Stars: Festival of Holidays & Christmas Parade

MORE INFORMATION: www.KilleenTexas.gov/DowntownEvents

* City supported events
 ** City sponsored event

CITY OF KILLEEN
 RECREATION SERVICES

EASTER EGG HUNT 2023

APRIL 6 5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
 HUNT BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M.
 KILLEEN ATHLETIC COMPLEX
 (2201 E VETERANS MEMORIAL BOULEVARD)

AGE GROUPS:
 0-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12
 ADAPTIVE FIELD 0-25

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR OWN BASKET OR BAG!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/REC

CITY OF KILLEEN

Special Council Workshop & Community Online Survey

The Killeen City Council is asking the public to complete a one-page survey and attend a second Special Workshop to consider putting a General Obligation and Certificate of Obligation Bond on a future ballot for a citizen vote.

The public can access the online survey with feedback on proposed projects at www.KilleenTexas.gov/Bond

What is a GO Bond?
 Issued by local governments to finance infrastructure projects and is payable from the local issuer's property taxes and require voter approval.

What is a CO Bond?
 Does not require voter approval and is backed by the full faith and credit of the City (property tax pledge). These can also have a dual pledge of property taxes and a specific City revenue source.

Thursday, March 30 at 6:00 p.m.
 City Hall (101 North College Street)

Online Survey: www.KilleenTexas.gov/Bond through Friday, March 17

Killeen Citizens Academy



The 2023 Citizens Academy class will graduate at the end of this month. The eight-week program helps participants see how the city works with an in-depth lesson on each department and function or program of city government. Participants interact with elected officials and city staff and get an inside look at city operations.

The free academy has been popular since its inception in 2014.

Information on the 2024 class will be out in the coming months, and interested parties are encouraged to sign up fast, as participation is limited to 30 participants.

Looking back



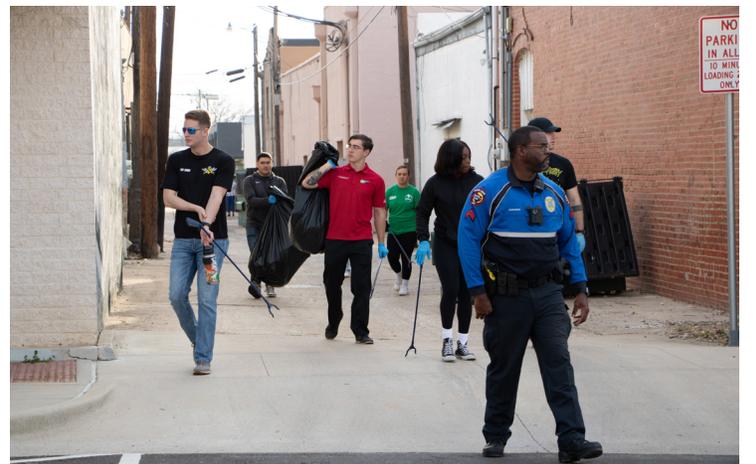
Mayor Debbie Nash-King and Chief Kimble made 11-year-old Devarjaye Daniel an honorary member of the Killeen Police Department on Dec. 15, 2022. Devarjaye has brain and spine cancer, and wants to be sworn in by as many police departments as possible. He initially set a goal of 100 departments, but is now closing in on his 700th. We wish him all the best as he continues his quest.



Our annual Daddy-Daughter Dance with the theme "Waltzing in a Winter Wonderland" was one our biggest yet, as tickets sold out weeks in advance of the Jan. 13 event. All the daughters and dads had a great time.



Hundreds showed up to march on Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 16. Marchers began at the steps at City Hall and marched through downtown.



Members of Fort Hood's BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Service Members) joined us in January for our monthly Downtown Blitz on Jan. 11, at which staff and volunteers spend the morning cleaning up downtown.