

CITY INSIGHT

www.KilleenTexas.gov

August 2023

(254) 501-7600

A Message from Mayor Debbie Nash-King



August is a month filled with anticipation, as teachers and students head back to school. We wish them, as well as the parents, a successful and productive year, as the leaders of tomorrow flourish in these classrooms. We ask motorists to be on alert and aware of increased school traffic and students on the roads, adhering to bus stops, flashing lights and crossing guards. And we want to help you kick off the new school year with our annual Back to School Splash Bash on Aug. 12 from 10a.m. – 1p.m. at the Family Aquatic Center.

The City of Killeen ‘made the grade’ in several areas with our recent Citizen Survey where 78% of respondents say they’re satisfied with the overall quality of life in our city. The six-page survey was conducted by ETC Institute and administered between March and May 2023. The top satisfaction areas included Fire services, Ambulance services and trash/brush collection. Citizens say the highest investment priorities

are street maintenance, police services and code enforcement. These surveys help us as City leaders and council prioritize budget spending and guide funding and services for our residents. Visit www.KilleenTexas.gov/City for the full report.

We’ve had several weeks of triple-digit temperatures, and we want to remind everyone to check on and protect our senior citizens, children and pets. It’s illegal to leave your child or pet inside a vehicle unattended, so let’s work together to keep each other safe...and alive.

We want to thank the 2,000+ people who attended our second annual Independence Day Extravaganza on July 1 and also remind you about our next event—Touchdown in Downtown on Saturday, Sept. 9 in Historic Downtown. There are more details on www.KilleenTexas.gov/DowntownEvents.

And lastly, we want to acknowledge Women’s Equality Day, which is Aug. 26. It commemorates the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. Let us all celebrate the success of the Women’s rights movement, as well as what can still be achieved.

Having a blast

We celebrated Independence Day with another big fireworks display that could be seen in much of the city, the highlight of another great Independence Day Extravaganza in downtown Killeen. To view more photos and for more information on upcoming downtown events, visit www.KilleenTexas.gov/DowntownEvents.



Library Summer Reading Program



The Library Summer Reading Club enjoyed a variety of performances and displays, including magician John O' Bryant and Paleontologist BK Bones, who entertained and informed all students who chose to attend.



Groundbreaking



A groundbreaking was held for the renovation and building project at the Rosa Hereford Community Center and Bob Gilmore Senior Center.

The old Bob Gilmore Center was first constructed in 1977. It was demolished in March 2022. The Killeen Community Center first opened in March 1974 and was renamed the Rosa Hereford Community Center in 2020 in honor of our former City councilwoman. It closed in 2020 due to COVID-19 and also operated as a warming center, when needed. The new facilities will include a large billiard room, banquet facilities, senior lunch program, ceramics, and card rooms. Seniors will also have access to the gym, weight room and aerobics room, as well as meeting rooms. There will also be pickleball courts and a dining courtyard outside.

TOUCHDOWN IN DOWNTOWN

SEPTEMBER 9TH
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
EAST AVENUE D & GRAY STREET

KICK OFF THE FOOTBALL SEASON IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN KILLEEN!

JOIN US FOR A SUPER FAN CONTEST, BAND & DRUMLINE PERFORMANCES, FOOD TRUCKS, & MORE!

APPLY TO BE A VENDOR BY AUGUST 10TH

WWW.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/DOWNTOWNEVENTS

Citizens survey

The results are in from our 2023 Citizens Survey, and the results show our citizens are relatively happy. Still, we know we have work to do. An extensive scientific survey conducted by a third party showed that 78% of residents were generally satisfied with the quality of life in the city. The city rated significantly higher in Texas and U.S. averages in 6 of the 14 major categories of the survey. Our fire services rated 15% higher than the Texas average and 4% higher than the national average, and our ambulance service was 18% higher than Texas and 9% higher than the U.S.

The major areas where our citizens felt we could do better were street maintenance, police services and code enforcement. The good news is we have already begun addressing major road construction projects and have a long term comprehensive plan in place to keep our roads safe and drivable. For more information visit www.KilleenTexas.gov/City.

Killeen Citizens Survey 2023 Results:

Citizen's Satisfaction Rating: 78%

Top services: Fire, Ambulance, Trash/Brush

Services where Killeen rated higher than state and U.S.:
Fire, Ambulance, Trash/Brush, Water/Sewer, Library,
Utility Collections

Services needing highest investment priority:
Street Maintenance, Police, Code Enforcement

www.killeentexas.gov/City



Fall Activities

Saturday
SEP
9

Touchdown in Downtown

Saturday
SEP
9

Bow Wow Luau

Saturday
SEP
30

Domestic Violence Walk

Tuesday
OCT
3

National Night Out

Saturday
OCT
14

Killeen Fire Department
Open House

Saturday
OCT
28

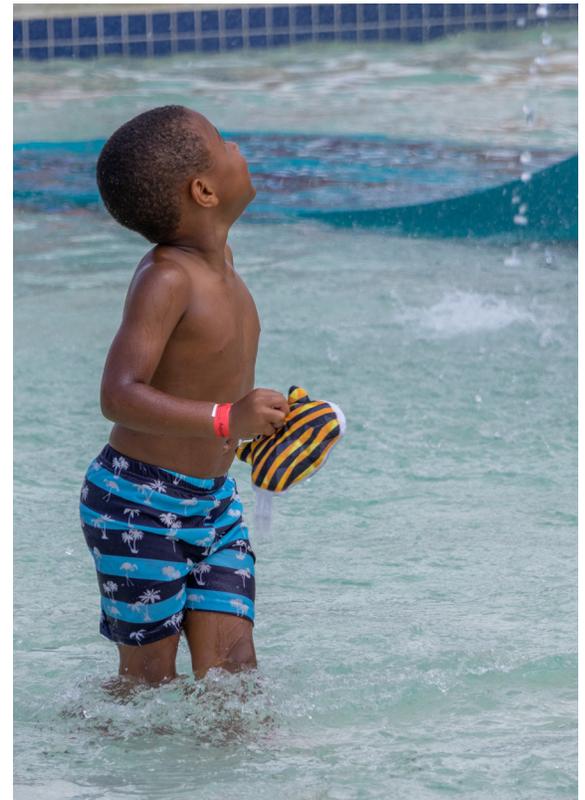
Fall Fest

Tuesday
OCT
31

Halloween
(City recommends Trick or
Treating from 6-8p.m.)

www.killeentexas.gov/calendar

Summer Fun



We've had a blast this summer, showing four great movies in our "Movies In Your Park" Series (upper left), opening our Family Aquatic Center and our Long Branch Pool for families to enjoy, and beautifying our community garden with the help of some Bell County Master Gardeners. Be sure to check out all our upcoming fall and winter events.

Centenarian seniors!



Three lovely members of our Lions Club Park Senior Center are living life in their 100s and all had birthdays in June! Margaret Morthland (left) turned 102, Muriel Bell (wearing the black hat) is 104, and Artressa Malone is 103. They all still enjoy the activities at the center on a regular basis. If you want to join, you just have to be 55 or older and it's absolutely free. For more information, visit the Lions Club Park Senior Center at 1700-B East Stan Schlueter Loop or log onto www.killentexas.gov/seniors.

