

CITY INSIGHT

www.KilleenTexas.gov

December 2023

(254) 501-7600

A Message from Mayor Debbie Nash-King



We've not only made it through another year, but the residents of Killeen have also thrived throughout another year.

As we look back at what this year has brought, I hope our citizens can see all the hard work that our 1,300 employees, the seven council members and I have been investing into our city.

This is the second, full year of hosting free, family-friendly events nearly every month in our Historic Downtown District. Our downtown buildings have gone from being 70% vacant to 80% full in just 12 months. We have huge businesses committed to building right here and making Killeen a new home and more jobs have been created to help boost our economy.

If you look at all that we've accomplished in just one year of our Killeen 2040 Comprehensive Plan, just imagine what can be accomplished in the next decade and beyond.

The transformation is happening and we're doing things we've never seen before in our city. We hosted our first-ever Night Market with dozens of vendors, fresh produce and musical entertainment from September to November. We also hosted our inaugural Lunchbox Live Music Series, where community members could enjoy their meal outside while listening to local artists. For the second year, we've partnered with the National Mounted Warrior Museum to feature and honor dozens of military veterans with banners displayed downtown. We have a beautiful Christmas tree and décor for our residents to enjoy, along with the annual Holiday Under the Stars Christmas parade and festival.

We thank all who have joined and will join us and also appreciate our residents who not only attended the Council Townhall meeting, but asked questions and started a great conversation that we want to continue. The feedback is crucial for us to move forward.

Things are looking very bright for Killeen in 2024 and we hope you'll continue to unite and stand with us.

Holiday season

The City of Killeen's Holiday Under The Stars has been expanded to two weekends full of holiday fun. It started with our tree lighting ceremony in Downtown Killeen on Friday, Dec. 1, followed by the Jingle Bell Dash 5K on Saturday, Dec. 2. Saturday, Dec. 9, the Festival of Holidays was held in Downtown Killeen starting at 4. and the 60th Annual Christmas Parade ran through that same day at 6 p.m. The annual Holiday Under The Stars Festival is the city's most popular event, and includes games, rides, bounce houses, entertainment, and of course, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Look for photos next month!



Characters wave to the crowd during the 2022 City of Killeen Christmas Parade. This year, the parade was held Dec. 9 and celebrated its 60th year. We'll have photos in our next edition.

At City Hall

Mayor Debbie Nash-King in October swore in the newest members of the Youth Advisory Commission (below). The Commission was founded to provide the youth of our community opportunities through volunteerism and service, by taking initiatives that are directed toward effective change. For more information visit www.KilleenTexas.gov/YAC.

Fire Chief Jim Kubinski was one of several city leaders to address the public in our annual Town Hall.



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THE GREAT PLACE**
U.S. ARMY FORT CAVAZOS

Holiday season

City of Killeen offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec., 26. Solid Waste routes that normally run those two days will run a day late.

The city will also be closed on Monday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. Solid Waste routes that normally run Monday will run a day late.

Job opportunities

The City of Killeen is always looking for qualified individuals to come work with us. The city offers full-time employees a great benefits package which includes Employee Assistance Program, Wellness, Medical, Vision, Dental, Health Savings Account or Flexible Spending Account, Retirement Accounts, Disability, Accident/Critical Illness/Hospital Indemnity Supplemental Benefits and more. To find your next job visit www.killeentexas.gov/jobs or scan the QR code below:



KILLEEN CITIZENS ACADEMY

January 18 - March 21, 2024



APPLY TODAY

The Killeen Citizens Academy is a free program that began in 2014 with a goal to improve citizen engagement and help create a better Killeen. The program helps citizens 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 to get an inside look at city operations. The academy runs once a week for eight weeks, before graduation day.



Applications open today until December 29, 2023 or until all 30 slots are full.

For more information, call (254) 501-7755 or visit KilleenTexas.gov/KCA

Solar Eclipse

SOLAR ECLIPSE APRIL 8, 2024



We've been telling you about the next Total Solar Eclipse for more than a year now, but there's still a lot to answer. On April 8, 2024, the eclipse path of "totality" will be over Killeen at 1:36 p.m. and last 4 minutes and 16 seconds. On Monday, Dec. 4, the City held a townhall with residents to help residents feel more prepared. Some common questions about the event:

How will the City of Killeen be impacted?

Every major hotel in the city has already sold out of rooms and the city is expected to more than double its population that weekend. This will have a heavy impact on traffic, especially Monday morning as

visitors will be driving to find the best viewing area. Many area restaurants and stores may also be crowded all weekend long.

Is the City of Killeen hosting any events that weekend?

The City has partnered with Central Texas College and the Mayborn Science Theater. The planetarium will have special shows all weekend and on Monday have an eclipse watch. The shows will include presentations by NASA personnel, meteorologist Bill Hecke, and astronomer Warren Hart over the course of the three days.

For more information visit www.KilleenTexas.gov/eclipse.

Recognizing a hero



Mayor Debbie Nash-King visited the Killeen Independent School District Transportation Center to recognize a very special bus driver who helped save a child's life.

When one of Ms. Grace Morgan's riders started choking on a piece of candy, she jumped in and performed the Heimlich maneuver, which removed the object that was stopping the student from breathing. Ms. Grace has been in this career for 37 years and the City of Killeen thanks her for her dedication and passion. She and the 200+ KISD bus drivers train for moments like this and today a little girl is alive because of it! The Mayor presented a certificate of appreciation and the Mayor's coin.

STAY CONNECTED



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www.killeentexas.gov



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Sign up for alerts!



Download the **Killeen Connect App** or go to www.killeentexas.gov/killeenconnect to make non-emergency requests (e.g. broken traffic light, a water leak, or a loose animal).

Volunteer!

Get involved. Make a difference.
The City of Killeen offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for ages 16 and up.

Opportunities include:

- Recreation Services (Senior Center, Special Events, Athletic Coaching)
- Community Cleanup
- Downtown Events
- Animal Shelter
- Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

www.killeentexas.gov/volunteer

Service with a cause



Nearly 100 City employees formed a human pink ribbon to show support of those affected by breast cancer.



New City of Killeen firefighters take the oath at a pinning ceremony for new hires and promotions on Oct. 26.

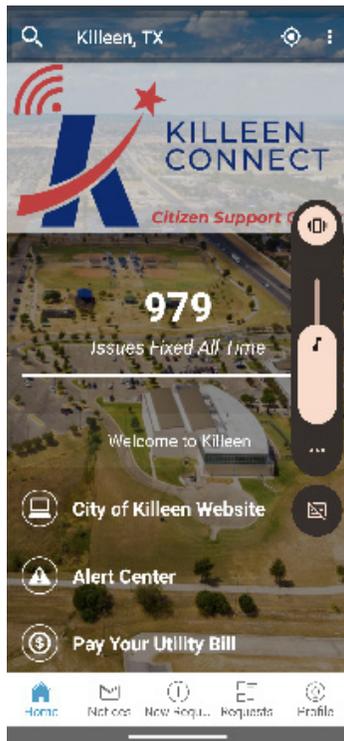
Your City, Your App

Did you know the City of Killeen has an app, and it's free? 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!

You can download the app today in the app store on your phone.



Fall events



Weather forced the Fall Fest to move from the Stonetree Golf Course to the Special Events Center. It was still a great time as families displayed all sorts of unique and fun costumes, plus there was candy to be found.



Participants make a final push for the finish of the Turkey Trot 5K held Nov. 4 at Stonetree Golf Course.

 CITY OF KILLEEN MUNICIPAL COURT

WARRANT FORGIVENESS

DECEMBER 1-31, 2023



Safe Harbor Program: Anyone who has outstanding warrants with the Killeen Municipal Court may appear without fear of arrest if he/she tries in good faith to resolve their outstanding warrants. Participants may be eligible for alternatives, such as community service or a reduction in their fine, based on ability to pay.

*WARRANT FEES WILL BE WAIVED

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/COURT