

CITY INSIGHT

www.KilleenTexas.gov

January 2024

(254) 501-7600

A Message from Mayor Debbie Nash-King



As we kick off the new year, we have much to be proud of and look forward to as citizens of Killeen.

Several company surveys have recognized our city nationally over the last, few months. In one SmartAsset survey, Killeen's housing market was named the best in the nation for first-time homebuyers. Another survey, Real Estate Source, ranked Killeen second in the state for the lowest cost of living.

On the heels of those studies, WalletHub ranked Killeen the ninth most affordable college town in the country. This was based off things like housing costs, fitness club fees, costs of certain foods and activities and the cost of higher education at Texas A&M University-Central Texas.

Lastly, Killeen ranked eighth in another SmartAsset survey for attracting the most millennials to move here, with millennials making up nearly 11% of our population. Killeen even narrowly beat out Austin,

who came in ninth place.

The recognitions and awards kept on coming in 2023, with our Historic Downtown being awarded the "Best Economic Game Changer" honor. Our downtown district has gone from seeing 600,000 people, to 1.2 million in one year. \$9 million has been invested into our downtown. We've doubled our foot traffic, hosted half a dozen signature events downtown, created about 90 new jobs and now occupy 80% of our vacant buildings. A new county annex building will also come next year, bringing in hundreds of new jobs and opportunities.

Anthem Park is a 200-acre, mixed-use development that will bring employment, housing opportunities and entertainment, including the highly anticipated Dave and Buster's business.

This is just the tip of the iceberg regarding what's in store for our great city. We're on the rise and it's happening rapidly. We want citizens to be on board as we take flight.

Snowball Express

Comfort dogs greeted some very excited children on Dec. 1 at Killeen Regional Airport. The children were preparing to board the Snowball Express for a trip to Disney World in Florida, funded by the Gary Sinise Foundation. The Gary Sinise Foundation's Snowball Express serves Gold Star families, the surviving spouse/guardian and children of fallen heroes. It is committed to year-round programming and support for families that honors their fallen hero, encourages them to make new memories, and provides opportunities to connect with others who know what they've been through.



Holiday fever



Our annual Holiday Under The Stars was a big hit this year, as we had five events over the first two weekends in December. We began with our traditional Christmas tree lighting by Santa himself in Downtown Killeen. We also had a vendors and musical performances, including groups from Killeen and Ellison high schools. Our Jingle Bell Dash 5K had a great mix of competitive runners and those there to show off their costumes. We concluded the events with Festival of the Holidays, a gathering with music, crafts and vendors downtown, and our 60th annual Christmas Parade downtown. A big thank you to Santa and everyone who participated.

Volunteer!

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

Opportunities include:

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

www.killeentexas.gov/volunteer

STAY CONNECTED

<p>Website www.killeentexas.gov</p>		<p>Facebook @KilleenTexas</p>	
<p>Instagram @cityofkilleen</p>		<p>Twitter @cityofkilleen</p>	
<p>YouTube @CityOfKilleenTX</p>		<p>Sign up for alerts!</p>	

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).

Solar Eclipse



SOLAR ECLIPSE APRIL 8, 2024

The April 8 Total Solar Eclipse that we've been telling citizens about for over a year, is just a few months away now. As a refresher, the eclipse's path of "totality" will be over Killeen at 1:36 p.m. and last 4 minutes and 16 seconds. During that time the sky will become dark, as if it were dusk outside.

Even if you don't care about this phenomenon, and don't plan to witness the event, you will still want to be prepared..

Traffic: The city is expected to double in size that weekend due to the thousands of umbraphiles (people who chase eclipses) visiting here that weekend. Traffic will be heavy, especially along our

major roads. If you work that weekend or Monday, give yourself extra time for travel.

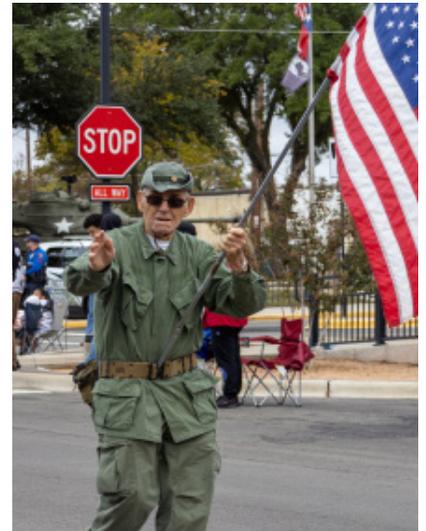
Food and gas: Local grocers and restaurants have been made aware of the eclipse, and are making provisions. Still, it is in your best interest to stock up on essential groceries and fill your gas tanks early to avoid crowds, and avoid the potential that stores might not have your favorite items.

Phones/Internet: The influx of people may put a strain on local cell towers and slow service speeds. This could affect cell phones and customers who use wireless home internet providers such as T-Mobile or Verizon).

Honoring those who served



The annual Killeen Veterans Day Parade is always a big draw. Veterans of all ages participate and are supported by spectators of all ages.



CITY OF KILLEEN SOLID WASTE SERVICES DIVISION 2024 HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE FOR RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS CUSTOMERS (254) 501-7785 • KILLEENTEXAS.GOV

Monday, January 1, 2024

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

Thursday, July 4, 2024

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

Thursday, November 28, 2024

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

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

There are no services on Wednesdays.
ALL Routes 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.

KILLEEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

LEGO DAY

**SATURDAY, JAN. 27
10 A.M. – 4 P.M.**

**KILLEEN SPECIAL EVENTS CENTER
3301 South W.S. Young Drive**

(254) 501-8996
LIBRARYPROGRAMS@KILLEENTEXAS.GOV
WWW.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/LIBRARIES

Service recognition



Mayor Debbie Nash-King on Nov. 14 presented a certificate to Webelos Cub Scout Pack 221 for taking the initiative to learn about city government and the City Council.



The City of Killeen was recently recognized by the Texas Workforce Commission with a We Hire Vets certificate. More than 25% of the City of Killeen staff are veterans.



You never know who you might find making themselves the I in Killeen! That's State Representative Brad Buckley and members of our Youth Advisory Commission. Join the fun and visit our interactive Killeen sign at 211 East Ave D.

Career Day



On Nov. 30, students from Willow Springs Elementary School came to visit City Hall. The students were participating in career day, and got to learn what our Mayor, Fire Chief, Police Chief and Director of Public Works do. Despite it being a cool, rainy day the students also stepped outside city hall and got to climb aboard a fire truck, police truck and solid waste truck. Our Mayor, Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Director of Public Works enjoyed the students and want to thank Willow Springs for letting them visit.

