

CITY INSIGHT

www.KilleenTexas.gov

February 2024

(254) 501-7600

A Message from Mayor Debbie Nash-King



This year is a leap year, so that means we have 29 days in February. That's an extra day for myself and Council to serve you, and it's also an extra day for citizens to be engaged with us. We also look forward to resident's recommendations for this city

to continue to grow in the direction they'd like to see.

Residents have been holding the City accountable in many ways. One of the ways citizens stay engaged is through the Killeen Connect app, which recently hit 1,000 completed service requests, addressing concerns for our city. That's remarkable because the app launched in May 2022 as a resource for community members to report quality-of-life issues like potholes, malfunctioning traffic lights, loose animals, etc. Here's how it works-- residents can upload a photo of the problem to the app (which is linked to an address), then follow the progress as it's fixed, which is usually within

48 hours.

That's an excellent way for citizens to be engaged and show they care about their city. As community members make their resolutions for 2024, I also encourage more people to make volunteering a part of their 2024 goals. The City has several departments that accept volunteers year-round, including Parks and Recreation, Downtown and Animal Services. In order to volunteer, you must register on our website at www.KilleenTexas.gov/Volunteer.

As you become more active and engaged with the City, we hope you attend our Council meetings (virtually or in person). We also hope you attend events, like the upcoming Daddy Daughter Dance on Feb. 23 and the third annual Motown in Downtown festival on Feb. 24. As we celebrate American Heart Month and Black History Month, please get involved with activities throughout the community. For a full list of Save the Dates for 2024, visit www.KilleenTexas.gov/Events.

Solar Eclipse: April 8, 2024

We are just a weeks away from the April 8 Total Solar Eclipse, which will darken the skies of Killeen for over 4 minutes in the afternoon.

We've partnered with Central Texas College and the Mayborn Science Theater for some unique events in Killeen for the eclipse weekend.

The City of Killeen Parks and Recreation is having a Laser Light Show at the Lions Club Park Family Recreation Center on Saturday, April 6. It will begin after sunset and last about 15 minutes.

Our libraries will also



A huge thanks to everyone who attended our Eclipse Townhall in December. To view a replay of the townhall visit www.killeentexas.gov/eclipse.

hold information sessions March 9, 16, 23, 29 and 30 which will include crafts. Complete a full session

to pick up a pair of safety eclipse glasses.

One pair of safety glasses can also be picked up at

the Civic and Conference Center, while supplies last.

An updated schedule of events, can be found at www.KilleenTexas.gov/eclipse. And if you plan to have a watch party please visit that site as well to fill out the necessary forms.

And again remember to be prepared for the large crowds. Buy groceries and gas about a week out. Text instead of calling. And remember, if you have to leave the house, give yourself plenty of extra time, as traffic, and major intersections will be crowded.



Police Chief Pedro Lopez swore in 11 new graduates of the Killeen Police Academy on Dec. 15. The Killeen Police Department's Academy Training Center is a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) licensed law enforcement academy. Our mission is to provide training to licensed Texas Peace Officers including State, Federal and Military Law Enforcement Agencies. Our department is always looking for new academy recruits. If you are interested please email kpdrecluting@killeentexas.gov. Visit www.killeentexas.gov/police for more information on the force and the academy.

Check out our libraries



Did you know that our libraries have so much more to offer than just reading materials? These Christmas cookies were decorated by participants in a free cookie decorating class held at the main library. Visit www.killeentexas.gov/libraries to see the exciting happenings at our libraries.

Upcoming events

2024 EVENTS

JAN 15	MLK DAY WALK (NAACP) Downtown Killeen <small>CITY SUPPORTED</small>	JUN 15	JUNETEENTH PARADE Downtown Killeen <small>CITY SUPPORTED</small>
JAN 27	LIBRARY LEGO DAY Killeen Special Events Center	JUN 21	MOVIES IN YOUR PARK (BEGINS) TBD
FEB 23	DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE Killeen Civic & Conference Center	JUL 06	RED, WHITE, & BLUE MUSIC FESTIVAL Killeen
FEB 24	MOTOWN IN DOWNTOWN Downtown Killeen	JUL 27	CALIENTE 5K Long Branch Park
MAR 09	LOVE YOUR PARK DAY TBD	AUG 10	BACK 2 SCHOOL SPLASH BASH Family Aquatic Center
MAR 16	FLAVORS OF CENTRAL TEXAS Downtown	SEP 07	BOW WOW LUAU Family Aquatic Center
MAR 23	SPRING FEST TBD	SEP 07	TOUCHDOWN IN DOWNTOWN Downtown Killeen
APR 12	SPRING FARMERS MARKET (BEGINS) Downtown Killeen	OCT 04	FALL FARMERS MARKET (BEGINS) Downtown Killeen
APR 26	NATIONAL ARBOR DAY TBD	OCT 26	FALL FEST TBD
APR 26	CELEBRATE KILLEEN FESTIVAL Downtown Killeen	NOV 01	TEXAS ARBOR DAY TBD
APR 27	CELEBRATE KILLEEN FESTIVAL (DAY 2) Downtown Killeen	NOV 02	TURKEY TROT 5K Stonetree Golf Club
MAY 03	LUNCH BOX LIVE (BEGINS) Downtown Killeen <small>CO-SPONSORED</small>	NOV 11	VETERANS DAY PARADE Downtown Killeen <small>CITY SUPPORTED</small>
MAY 04	CENTRAL TEXAS ASIAN PACIFIC FEST Downtown Killeen <small>CO-SPONSORED</small>	DEC 06	TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY Killeen
MAY 04	FALLEN HEROES 5K Pursler Heritage Oaks Hike & Bike Trail	DEC 07	JINGLE BELL DASH 5K Andy K. Wells Hike & Bike Trail
MAY 16	RODEO KILLEEN (BEGINS) Killeen Special Events Center <small>CITY SUPPORTED</small>	DEC 14	CHRISTMAS PARADE & FESTIVAL Downtown Killeen

WWW.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/EVENTS



CEN-TEX Race Series 2024

JAN 20	YSK RUN TO THE POLAR BEAR PLUNGE	Copperas Cove
FEB 10	SALADO LIONS ROAR 5K	Salado
FEB 17	AJ HOWARD MEMORIAL 5K	Belton
MAR 17	ADVENT HEALTH SILVER CLASSIC 5K & 3K	Killeen
MAR 23	STAN WEIK 5K CANCER STOMP	San Saba
APR 13	MPR COPS VS ROBBERS 5K	Morgan's Point Resort
APR 20	EMPOWHER 5K FAMILY RUN/WALK	Killeen
MAY 04	FALLEN HEROES 5K	Killeen
MAY 11	JACKRABBIT RUN 5K & 10K	Copperas Cove
JUN 15	JUNETEENTH 5K	Killeen
JUL 13	TOUGHEST 10K IN TEXAS 5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN	Lampasas
JUL 27	CALIENTE 5K	Killeen
AUG 03	SUMMER OF FUN RUN	Copperas Cove
AUG 17	GALLOP OR TROT 5K	Copperas Cove
SEP 21	THE JARRELL COUGAR DASH	Jarrell
SEP 28	NOLANVILLE FOX TROT 5K	Nolanville
OCT 12	MK5K	Killeen
OCT 19	ROTARY MONSTER DASH	Harker Heights
NOV 02	TURKEY TROT 5K	Killeen
NOV 16	SALADO BAND MUSTACHE DASH 5K	Salado
DEC 07	JINGLE BELL DASH 5K	Killeen
JAN 04, '25	HALF MARA-FUN	Killeen

Scan for more info!

- Point system
- Awards Banquet
- Contact info

PARKS & RECREATION

www.killeentexas.gov/centex

The Carlson Law Firm
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW
www.carlsonlawfirms.com

ENGINEERING DIVISION

STOP POLLUTION

Take these simple steps to help prevent water / runoff pollution:

- ◆ **Don't** blow grass clippings into the street to be washed into an inlet.
- ◆ **Do** sweep driveways, sidewalks, and gutters to keep them debris free.
- ◆ **Don't** overwater lawn.
- ◆ **Do** follow directions when using fertilizers and pesticides; consider organic alternatives.
- ◆ **Don't** dispose of mop water in the street or parking lots.
- ◆ **Don't** pour cooking oil down sink or storm drains.
- ◆ **Do** recycle used oil. Use drip pan at home to catch any motor oil that may spill. Killeen Recycling Center accepts used cooking and motor oil.
- ◆ **Don't** change oil in streets or driveways to avoid spills into drainage system.
- ◆ **Do** fix auto leaks quickly and dispose of used motor oil properly.
- ◆ **Do** clean up pet waste.
- ◆ **Do** dispose of hazardous materials properly: clean up spills immediately to prevent contact with stormwater.

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

Stormwater is rain that hits the ground and picks up pollutants and takes those pollutants to the nearest storm drain or drainage channel.

Storm drains and drainage channels then carry the stormwater to the closest creek, river, or stream, eventually ending up in the lakes.

Contaminants include oil, gas, paint, fertilizer, pet waste, grass clippings, car wash water, trash, sediments, and many others.

These pollutants when picked up by stormwater are considered an ILLICIT DISCHARGE.

Illicit Discharges are addressed in the City of Killeen's Code of Ordinances Chapter 32.25, as required under the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's MS4 permit to impose such an ordinance.

Our hope is that citizens of Killeen will help us in our watch for these discharges and report it, so that we can keep our city clean, and our creeks and lakes clean so that we can have drinking water and be able to fish.

Illegal dumping is another form of pollution and needs to be reported as well. The discharge of trash and dumping of large items, such as couches, tires, or even used oil containers, are not only unsightly, but they also make our city look trashy, and can contaminate the creeks and rivers.



Stormwater

Fact or Fiction

Fiction

The City's Storm Drain System (storm sewer inlets) drain to the Sanitary Sewer and is treated.

Fact

The city's storm drain system does not get treated before it goes to our creeks and lakes. So, anything that it picks up goes straight into the water and has a potential to kill fish and other aquatic animals and plants.

Fiction

Dirt, leaves, grass clippings aren't pollutants.

Fact

Dirt is a pollutant, since it can carry the pollutants that has been spilled into the system. Dirt, grass, and leaves also can fill up the storm inlet causing it to back up into the streets, and potentially back up into your home or business. Dirt, grass, and leaves can also settle into the waterbodies and raise the bottom so that it depletes the oxygen, causing harm to the aquatic animals and plants.

Dirt, leaves, and grass that do not completely wash into the storm system can cause vehicles to have accidents.

Fiction

Dumping used oil in the storm drain won't hurt a thing.

Fact

A single pint of oil released into a lake or wetland can cover one acre of surface water and seriously damage aquatic habitat. Even an accidental release of oil can take a major toll on our waterways.

Fiction

Applying fertilizer prior to a rain event won't hurt anything, it will just soak into the ground and work better.

Fact

High levels of nitrogen and phosphorus can cause an excessive richness of nutrients in a water body. This is call eutrophication. Eutrophication can lead to hypoxia (lack of oxygen) ("dead zones"), causing fish kills and a decrease in aquatic life.

(Eutrophication is frequently due to runoff from the land, which causes a dense growth of plant life and death of animal life from lack of oxygen).

INFO >

Visit the City's Stormwater Management Program web page to read more information on pollutants and what you can do to help.

www.KilleenTexas.gov/Stormwater or click on the QR Code
254-616-3172 or 254-501-7629 or Stormwater@killeentexas.gov

