

# CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

December 9, 2022

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> – Drive Through Nativity, Forest Home Baptist Church
- December 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Texas Shakespeare Festival, Mirth & Merriment
- December 10<sup>th</sup> – ‘Tis the Season Downtown Event
- **December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> – City Offices Closed**
- December 28<sup>th</sup> – Voices of Forgotten Streets
- **January 10<sup>th</sup> – Regular City Council Meeting; Kilgore City Hall, 5:30 p.m.**

## HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK



City Council and Department Heads hosted the annual City Employee Christmas Luncheon this week. Brookshire’s provided meat which was cooked by Larry Kincaid, Finance Director Landon Ward, and Fire Marshal Ryan Riley. Council and Department heads set up and served staff and helped hand out service awards for those employees who reached their 5, 10, 15, and 20 year anniversaries this year. If you see any of the following individuals please be sure to tell them thank you for their years of service.

### 5 years

Pedro Adame, Mason Barrett, Stacey Cole, James Schlugen, Derek McCuller, Audrey Pace

### 10 years

Patricia Davis, Roger Crues, John DeLaughter, Nathan Gardner

### 15 years

Jackie Hargrove, David Mauldin, BJ Burns

### 20 years

Ben Jones

## PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- Gregg Johnson retired after 16 years with the Street department; we appreciate all that he has done for the City.
- The street sweeper is back in service catching up on all the leaves along our curb lines. Residents please be sure to move your trash cans out of the road after trash day so that we can sweep the entire road. Also, be sure to not contribute to the build up by blowing the leaves on your property into the street.
- There have been only 2 water quality complaints in the 6 weeks since the completion of the chlorine conversion.
- Repairs have been scheduled for a break that was found on the city’s raw water main coming from the Sabine.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- The Fire Department has had the privilege of staging and sending off the Kilgore Bulldogs Football team as they have left town for playoff games.
- The Fire Department just finished our annual “Mayday/Downed Firefighter Drill.” This training is coordinated with Dispatch and Kilgore Rescue in case a Firefighter or First Responder becomes trapped or injured in an emergency situation.
- Both Fire and Police Departments participated in the City Christmas parade along with other City departments.
- KPD has continued with its relationship with the Kilgore Bulldogs. We’ve been presenting a “Player of the Week” award each week during football season while also attending games and assisting with escorts. We plan to include all sports at some point.
- KPD attended the Veterans Memorial event, and Officer Angela Burch played Taps. We were also involved in the Veterans program at KMS.
- KPD Administrators attended the Fall Safety meeting with KISD officials. We are all dedicated to creating a safe environment for our students.
- KPD hosted our second week of the Developing Leaders Course, which is a supervisory leadership program. We've had agencies from Tyler, Longview, Henderson, Athens, Rusk County, and a few out-of-town officials. They will finish the course in mid-December with their third and final week.
- We had an annual departmental meeting and picture. We decided on using the stairs of the KHS Auditorium for our annual picture since it will be demolished soon.
- Our call load has gone up as we are seeing different types of thefts and a lot more family violence. The Patrol Unit and Criminal Investigative Unit have worked on several cases these last two weeks including solving some motor vehicle thefts, mail & fraud cases, and human trafficking.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- The permit office issued 44 permits for the month of November which consisted mainly of trade permits.
- Kilgore Animal Control Officer, Tom Sawyer, has hosted 2 dog obedience classes. We have 10 participants for this first group of classes.
- The Kilgore Community Development Corporation, at their last meeting, voted to sell 5 lots in the Remington North Subdivision. Four of the lots are for single-family residential homes, and one of the lots will be sold for a duplex.
- The construction on the street and water infrastructure has begun in the Iron Farms Subdivision.
- The street name change of West Lantrip to Fritz-Swanson has been completed. Street signs have been installed.
- At the last City Council meeting, the City Council voted to appoint the following people to the Planning and Zoning Board for a two-year term. Randy Renshaw, Tommy Merritt, Dana Pearce, Craig Adams.

## QUALITY OF LIFE/TOURISM

- Kilgore Geekend will present "Tis the Season" This Saturday, December 10, 2022, from 10 AM to 3 PM. Come and do some last minute Christmas shopping with the downtown merchants and street vendors. Kilgore Main Street will be sponsoring a petting zoo for the festivities.
- At the last Council meeting, the City Council voted to appoint the following members to the Kilgore Main Street Board. Kristian Brian, Precious Wafer, and Kenya Ray.
- Kilgore is in full holiday mode, reflected in Visit Kilgore’s recent marketing efforts.
- Visit Kilgore used print and digital platforms such as Texas Highways, TourTexas.com, Facebook, and Instagram to promote visitation to Kilgore during the holiday this year.

## LIBRARY

- Around 205 patrons attended the Library Christmas Open House, Friday, Dec 2.
- Lego Club meets on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.
- Teen and Tween Crafting, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4p.m.
- Adult Craft Wood Slice Ornaments – Adults 18+ are invited- December 9<sup>th</sup> at 4p.m.
- Leverett's Chapel ISD Pre K students visited the library Thursday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> for a special field trip.