

CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

January 12, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 15th – **CANCELED DUE TO WEATHER** - Kilgore Men and Women of Alliance MLK Day Celebration
- **January 15th – City Offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- **January 23rd – Regular City Council Meeting at 5:30 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers**
- January 26th – State of the Community at 11 a.m. at the Texan register [HERE](#)
- **February 13th - Regular City Council Meeting at 5:30 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers**

PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND PROJECTS

- Main Street demolition proceeded over the last two weeks. Weather has prevented the contractor from scheduling the first pour.
- A 20-inch main break along 31 over the weekend resulted in low water pressures across the city. Crews were able to locate and isolate the leak in under 2 hours. They have spent the last week cutting and capping the affected portion so that water service to the affected residents and businesses could be resumed. This solution will allow plans to be developed to replace the portion of the main that had broken.
- The water system has begun the conversion back to chloramines for disinfection.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- After a thorough testing process, we have recently hired Firefighter Brayten Harper. This has us at full staffing. Congratulations to Firefighter Harper!
- KPD has made the switch to the new digital radio system. We had been on an old VHF system and were unable to talk to area agencies. KPD collaborated with the Gregg County Sheriff's Office on this project, which saves the city money. The new system is an 800 MHz digital radio system. The digital system will now allow us to talk to our regional partners and broaden our communications radius.
- KPD hired Rhonda Haydel as our new Communications Supervisor. Rhonda comes to us from Longview, where she worked in IT and Communications.
- KPD hired Jasiaha Boaz as our newest Officer. Jasiaha is from Kilgore but had been working for the Marshall Police Department and wished to work in his hometown. He is in the pre-service academy now.
- KPD hired MacKenzie Pelkey as our new records clerk. She started the first week in January.
- The CAPA (Clergy and Police Alliance) quarterly meeting was held on Monday, January 8 and had 30 individuals in attendance. Members were introduced to K9 Santo and watched a demonstration of the new BolaWrap restraint system. In addition, a representative from East Crisis Response spoke to the group.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- The Wildcatter Trap and Release program continues to be a valuable partnership with the city. In 2023, a total of 132 cats were trapped, neutered, and released back into their environments. The program is a cost-effective way to stabilize the population. The city estimates that over \$20,000 in service costs have been saved in 2023. In addition, the Wildcatters found homes for 21 cats. To find out more about Wildcatters and ways to help, you can follow them on Facebook [@WildcattersTNR](#).
- December brought the fewest permits in 2023, with 21 issued. The work around the city continued and was evident in the number of inspections requested throughout the month.
- Projects around the city continue to move forward: the new composite pipeline built on Hwy 349 has steel going up, a construction fence has been installed for the new 7 Brew site on Kilgore St., the Kilgore College CDL project is pouring pavement, and windows will enter the Christus and Kilgore College facilities on Henderson Blvd.
- The Planning and Zoning Board will hold the monthly Board meeting on Wednesday January 17 at 8:30 a.m.

- The Kilgore CDC has recently sold 12 Additional lots in the Remington North Subdivision for single-family home development.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Kilgore received recognition in the Texas State Travel Guide, featuring the renowned Rangerettes on the cover. To view, use this [link](#).
- Kilgore Main Street is in the early stages of coordinating our yearly events and is actively working on the 2023 Accreditation Assessment for Main Street America.

LIBRARY

- January 16th - 4 p.m. - T(w)een Craft - Llama Snowflakes
- January 17th - 1 p.m. - LEGO Club
- January 24th - 4 p.m. - STEM: Snowball Catapult
- January 26th – 9 a.m. - Scam Awareness presented by Officer Angela Burch
- January 30th – 4 p.m. - Adult Craft Gift Wrap Wreath
- Beanstack Reading Challenge: Love of Reading begins February 1st.