

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents,

I have great news! The city of Killeen has received more than \$110 million in state funding for

three major road projects that will benefit our community for decades to come.

Residents consistently rate transportation issues like alleviating traffic and increasing connectivity as high priorities, and these three projects will make tremendous progress towards improving both.

US 190

In September, the Texas Department of Transportation awarded Killeen a nearly \$60 million project that will widen US 190 to six lanes from the Fort Hood Main Gate to W.S. Young Drive. This project will improve traffic flow to and from the fort particularly during rush hours. It will also alleviate congestion caused by cars entering and exiting the highway from major streets like Trimmier and W.S. Young.

SH 195/SH 201 Overpass

Construction on the first of two highway overpass projects began in October. The \$18 million SH 195/SH 201 Overpass Project will raise SH 195 over the intersection at SH 201. It will also widen SH 201 to four lanes from SH 195 to Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport.

First and foremost, the project will improve safety at this dangerous intersection. Other benefits are improved access to Texas

A&M University-Central Texas, the airport, and Stagecoach Road.

Rosewood Overpass

TxDOT also awarded a \$32 million project to raise US 190 over Rosewood Drive. Construction is expected to begin early next year. Raising the highway will allow the city to connect Rosewood to the north side of US 190 creating another way to access east Killeen.

Local Road Projects

City Council has set out to make major improvements to mobility in Killeen. Last year, they approved four major local road projects totaling \$30 million.

Cunningham Road is currently under construction to completely rehabilitate and widen the roadway. This project will allow better traffic flow between Stage-

coach Road and Stan Schlueter Loop.

The Stagecoach Road project began this month and will widen the roadway from SH 195 to the Harker Heights city limit creating a new east-west thoroughfare. Meeting SH 201, drivers will be able to take the road all the way west to Clear Creek Road.

The first of four phases of construction on Stagecoach Road will run from Aquamarine Drive to Modoc Drive and is expected to take about eight months.

Elms Road will finally connect through SH 195 creating another east-west thoroughfare. The road will soon run from Clear Creek Road all the way to Stan Schlueter Loop.

Finally, the city will do its part to ready Rosewood Drive to complement the US 190 overpass project TxDOT approved last year. Rosewood will connect under US 190 from Stagecoach Road to FM 2410 creating another north-south connection.

Killeen is expected to continue growing, so making these major improvements to roadways now will make a tremendous difference in easing future growing pains.

All of these projects have been years in the making. Through the hard work of staff and elected officials, we can all celebrate these projects and our city's progress.

Timothy L. Hancock



City, state, and Fort Hood officials break ground at the intersection of SH 195 and SH 201 in October.

MAYOR

LAY A HOLIDAY WREATH AT THE VETERANS CEMETERY

The Friends of the Central Texas Veterans Cemetery invite you to participate in the annual Wreath Project.

The Friends lead a community effort to express our remembrance and appreciation for veterans and their families during the holidays by placing a wreath at each grave in the veterans cemetery.

Your support is needed more than ever to prepare, lay, and

retrieve more than 3,000 wreaths.

Make the Wreath Project one of your holiday traditions.



WREATH PROJECT SCHEDULE

Wreath Preparation

Saturday, November 19 - 10 am
Killeen Special Events Center
3601 S. W.S. Young Dr.

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Saturday, November 26 - 10 am
State Veterans Cemetery
11463 S. SH 195

Wreath Retrieval

Sunday, January 8 - 2 pm
State Veterans Cemetery
11463 S. SH 195

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Do you have room in your heart to give a shelter animal a home for the holidays?



Puppies and kitties are always at the top of children's wish lists for Santa, and there is no better place to make those wishes come true than the Killeen Animal Shelter.

Check out all the pets that need homes online at killeentexas.gov, or drop by the shelter at 3118 Commerce Drive.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices will be closed on the following dates:

November 24 & 25
December 23 & 26
January 2 & 16

Emergency services and garbage collection will operate without interruption.

Happy Holidays
from the City of Killeen!

"LOCK IT UP" THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

As we all get in the holiday spirit, it is a good time to remember ways to keep your family and your property safe.

Never drink and drive or ride with someone who does!
Always designate a driver.

Holiday Shopping Safety

- Do your shopping as early as possible to avoid the chaos of crowds
- Keep your purse, wallet, and packages close at all times - it only takes a second for someone to grab and go
- Lock all of your packages and valuables in the trunk of your car and out of sight of thieves
- Always lock your car, and never leave valuables like cell phones, navigation devices, or iPods in plain view

Home Safety

- Festively wrapped packages are an invitation to burglars - place gifts where they can't be seen through doors or windows
- Secure your home by locking every door (including the garage door) while away, no matter how short a time you'll be gone

- Leave window shades in normal positions if you are going away, even just overnight
- Place lights on timers to appear someone is home
- Set your security alarm every time you leave

Fire Safety

- Only use artificial trees that say "fire resistant"
- Be sure to buy a fresh live tree as dried out trees are serious fire hazards
- Check all the bulbs and cords on light strands before using them
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree
- Never use lighted candles on or near a tree
- Make sure outdoor lights are certified for outdoor use

Be a Good Neighbor

- Know your neighbors, their children, their cars
- Report suspicious activity
- Offer to watch your neighbor's home while they are away, and ask them to do the same for you
- Start a Neighborhood Watch

We are all responsible for the safety of our community.

I'M DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS

Reduce, reuse, and recycle at the annual Christmas tree recycling event!

Residents are invited to drop off their Christmas trees Saturday, January 7th, from 9 am to 2 pm at the Special Events Center on W.S. Young Drive.

Keep Killeen Beautiful and the Public Works Department will collect the trees, chip and shred them, and offer them back to residents as landscaping mulch. The first 100 residents to donate their trees will even receive a complimentary sapling!

For more information call Volunteer Services at 501-7878.



WE'LL TAKE YOU THERE
FLYKILLEEN.NET



DON'T DOUBT EFFECTS OF DROUGHT

Central Texas is experiencing its worst drought in recorded history, and while the temperatures cool, rain is still missing from the weather forecast.

We all notice the effects of drought on our lawns, but brown grass is just the first symptom of what a lack of water will do. The long-term effects run far deeper to the roots of plants, shrubs, and trees.

We tend to water young plants and trees or those that flower.

And while mature plants do stand a better chance of surviving these stressful conditions, they are also more likely to suffer in silence.

Make sure to give all of your landscaping the water it so desperately needs so it can survive winter and thrive next summer.

It's not too late. Start watering that big shade tree in your yard. It will thank you with its beauty for years to come.

GIFTS FOR GOLFERS

Looking for a special gift for the golfer in your life? Personalized golf balls!

Order now through December 31st for free personalization on a dozen or more Titleist golf balls. Place your order by December 9th for delivery by Christmas.

Drop by Stonetree Golf Club for your holiday shopping. Shirts, hats, shoes, clubs, anything your golfer needs.

www.golfkilleen.com

CITY HALL ONLINE

City Hall is open 24 hours a day...online. Submit a request for service, pay a bill, or gather more information from the comfort of your home.

Just log onto killeentexas.gov and click one of the links under the *City Services* header. The system will walk you through the steps to get the services you need. You can even track the status of your requests.

City Hall just got a lot more convenient.

FLY KILLEEN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

As you make arrangements to visit family and friends this holiday season, remember the convenience and ease of Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport.

Served by three commercial airlines, the airport offers plenty of flight options with twenty departures and twenty arrivals daily. American, Continental, and Delta offer direct flights to hubs in Dallas, Houston, and Atlanta.

The airport is close to home and features convenient parking, quick and easy check-in, and a variety of terminal amenities.

So ease the hustle and bustle of traveling this season, and fly Killeen!

Keep these helpful tips in mind for your holiday trip:

- Book your flight early to secure the best flight time and ticket price.
- Verify the status of your flight with the airline on the day of travel.
- Arrive at the airport 90 minutes before your flight time.
- Know the TSA's latest regulations and pack accordingly. Visit www.tsa.gov for current information.
- Be flexible and stay positive.

Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport
We'll take you there!

FUN FOR ALL AT HOLIDAY UNDER THE STARS

Holiday Under the Stars is almost here, so mark your calendar for this annual holiday tradition December 3rd at the Killeen Community Center!

The festivities officially kick off at 8 am with pancakes at Breakfast in Toyland and the Jingle Bell Dash 5K run.

The fun zone opens at 10 with food, games, hayrides, a petting zoo, skating on the synthetic ice rink, and much more.

Santa will join the fun at 6 pm to light the city's 50-foot holiday tree then meet with boys and girls to hear wish lists and pose for photos.

Back-to-back holiday classic movies start at 6:30 pm on the outdoor screen. Bring a blanket and settle in for *A Christmas Story* and *A Christmas Carol*...with hot cocoa of course.



Don't miss Holiday Under the Stars! For more information, call Parks & Recreation at 501-8889.

ANNUAL OUTDOOR DECORATING CONTEST

Do you have a holly jolly home? Is your lawn merry and bright?

Enter your festively decorated home in Killeen's annual Outdoor Decorating Contest!

Complete the form on the city's website and email it with a digital photo of your home to wbrewster@ci.killeen.tx.us by November 30th.

Residents will vote for their favorite displays online, and the winners will be recognized at a City Council meeting.

For more information, call Volunteer Services at 501-7878.

FEAST OF SHARING

Join the City of Killeen and HEB for the fourth annual Feast of Sharing community meal December 13th from 4 to 8 pm at the Civic and Conference Center.

The Feast of Sharing highlights an effort to combat hunger by serving free holiday meals to families in our community. Everyone is welcome, so come enjoy live entertainment, fun activities, and a hot plate of delicious food!

For more information call Volunteer Services at 501-7878.

ICE RINK TO OPEN FOR WINTER SEASON

With or without cold weather, there will be winter fun on the city's synthetic ice skating rink!

The rink opens December 3rd at Holiday Under the Stars and remains open through December 31st at the Community Center.

Operating hours are Monday through Friday, noon to 9 pm, and Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm.

Admission is \$5 per person per day and includes ice skates.

You can even reserve the rink for parties and events. Add some

seasonal charm to your next party and wow your guests with unforgettable fun on ice!

To reserve the rink or for more information, call Parks & Recreation at 501-8889.

Make the most of winter weather this December at the city's synthetic ice skating rink!



The rink will be closed December 23rd-26th for the holidays.

IT'S A HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS

The City of Killeen will host its 49th annual Christmas Parade December 10th at 4:30 pm in historic downtown Killeen.

Be there for the magic as dozens of entries from local



businesses, organizations, and schools wind through the streets showcasing the spirit and cheer of the holiday season!

This year's theme is "A Hometown Christmas." Come out early to get the best spot to watch this special community event with your family, friends, and neighbors.

For more information or to register to participate in the parade, call Volunteer Services at 501-7878 or visit the city website at www.killeentexas.gov.

LETTERS TO SANTA

Santa's helpers are collecting letters from boys and girls in Killeen! Just drop your child's letter in the box at the Community Center or Family Recreation Center, and Killeen's elves will make sure it gets to the North Pole.

Letters should be addressed to: Santa Claus c/o The North Pole. Don't forget to include your return address so Santa can write back!