

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Killeen:

It's been a very good year! As we come to the close of 2015, I am proud to tell you that Killeen has much to be

thankful for. A strong economy, improved infrastructure, investments in public safety and new quality of life amenities are just some of the many blessings that have come to our community this year.

Killeen's population and economy continue to grow. Sales tax receipts are up more than four percent over last year's figures. Property values have also increased over last year by about three percent. This positive economic growth has allowed the city to move forward on major projects while maintaining the current tax rate.

Many road projects are beginning to take shape as construction draws to a close. Highway 190 between Fort Hood and WS Young Drive is now substantially complete, and motorists are enjoying less congestion thanks to the new third lanes. Construction to the east of this area will continue into next year.

Two eagerly awaited local road connections have opened. Rosewood Drive opened last month after about a year and a half of construction. The new north-south connection joins up with FM 2410, which was also widened from Stan Schlueter Loop to Harker Heights. New retail development in the area is expected to begin early next year as a result

of these improvements.

Another long-awaited connection opened this month. Elms Road now connects through SH 195 and creates a continuous east-west thoroughfare from Stan Schlueter Loop to Clear Creek Road.

The New Year will bring more construction as the Trimmer Road widening project adds a continuous center turn lane and improves the intersection at Lowe's Boulevard. Construction on Stagecoach Road will continue but should be complete by fall.

We began the year with the announcement that Killeen had achieved the highest possible fire suppression rating resulting in significant insurance savings for property owners. We'll end the year with a groundbreaking for Fire Station #9 next month. The station will be located on Bunny Trail and will service the growing southwestern area of town bringing it in line with the City's superior fire suppression rating.

And finally, the City has added to quality of life amenities this year most notably with the opening of the Mickey's Dog Park. Renovations have also begun on the more than 40-year-old Killeen Community Center, which will be fully updated and reopened next year.

2015 has been a year full of progress, and 2016 promises to continue that trend. Killeen has much to be thankful for this holiday season!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Cosper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Cosper, Mayor

WISHES GRANTED

The City of Killeen has been extremely successful in obtaining federal grant funds this year, and that is great news for residents! Not only is it a return of your federal tax dollars to our community, but it is a source of funding that enhances the services the City is able to offer.

Killeen Fire Department received a SAFER Grant for \$4.4 million to fund 37 new firefighter positions. Most of these positions will support the new fire station.

Killeen Police Department has received another COPS Grant this year in the amount of \$1.6 million. The funds are for the hire of 13 new police officers. A 2014 grant award of \$1.5 million hired 12 officers, who are currently completing the Police Academy.

Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport received a \$1.3 million grant to fund an airport master plan update, engineering for passenger boarding bridge replacement and the purchase of wildlife management equipment.

Lastly, the City received a \$2.4 million grant from the Texas Transportation Commission's Transportation Alternatives Program, which distributes federal funds to projects that offer alternatives to traditional transportation routes. This grant will construct segment 4 of the Heritage Oaks Hike & Bike Trail, a 1.5-mile stretch in the area of Rosewood Drive and Chaparral Road. The full trail will eventually stretch from US 190 to Stillhouse Lake.

Through building strong relationships with our federal elected officials in Washington, the City of Killeen is achieving great results from national programs.

VETERANS CEMETERY WREATH PROJECT MARKS 10 YEARS

The Friends of the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery invite you to participate in the 10th 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 now more than ever to prepare, lay

and retrieve more than 6,000 wreaths.



Make the Wreath Project one of your family's holiday traditions.

WREATH PROJECT SCHEDULE

Wreath Preparation

Saturday, November 21 - 10 am
Killeen Special Events Center
3601 S. W.S. Young Dr.

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Saturday, November 28 - 10 am
State Veterans Cemetery
11463 S. SH 195

Wreath Retrieval

Saturday, January 9 - 10 am
State Veterans Cemetery
11463 S. SH 195

www.wreathsforvets.org

PAWS TO GIVE THANKS

While you are giving thanks this holiday season, think of giving a shelter animal something to be thankful for...a home.



Killeen Animal Shelter has dozens of cats and dogs of all ages, sizes and breeds in

need of forever homes. Check out all the adoptable pets online at killeentexas.gov/animals, or visit the shelter.

As a special Thanksgiving promotion, there is no adoption fee November 20 through 28. Just pay the \$15 microchipping fee for cats and dogs to take home a new best friend.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices will be closed on the following dates:

November 26 & 27

December 24 & 25

January 1 & 18

Emergency services and garbage collection will operate without interruption.

Happy Holidays!

REGISTER FOR CODE RED TO STAY SAFE

Emergency notification can save lives, and the City of Killeen encourages you to register your best contact number in the CodeRED system. This might be your first alert if disaster strikes.

Listed home and business numbers are already in the system, but unlisted numbers and cellular numbers are not. CodeRED allows you to register your best contact number for emergency notification.

Emergency notifications could include weather events, water

disruptions or natural or manmade disasters. Notifications can be city-wide or specific to your neighborhood. You can select to receive certain types of notifications or to receive all.

If you have not registered for CodeRED please do so. You will be asked to provide your name, address and preferred phone number.

Register today by phone at 866-939-0911 or online at public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BFF2144C1EE5.

BE IN THE KNOW!

Wonder what's happening in the city of Killeen? "Like" us on Facebook, and we'll keep you in the know.

The City's Facebook page is your one-stop-shop for breaking news, event details, photos and useful links. You can share with friends, send us your feedback and post questions to get answers about city business when it's convenient for you. Go to facebook.com/KilleenTexas and "like" us today!



CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT KAAC



The Killeen Arts & Activities Center is a great place to celebrate! When planning your holiday party or other events, try Downtown.

Spaces for rent include a chapel, an auditorium, various banquet and meeting rooms as well as outdoor spaces.

Information about the facility including pricing is available at DowntownKilleenEvents.com. You may also call 254-501-6519 for information.

BE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

It's not just the Grinch who wants to steal during the Holidays. Don't let him or anything else ruin this season for you and yours. Protect yourself with these safety tips:

NEVER drink and drive or ride with someone who does!
ALWAYS designate a driver.



Fire Safety

- Only use artificial trees labeled "fire resistant"
- Be sure to buy a fresh live tree as dried out trees are a serious fire hazard
- Check all the bulbs and cords on light strands before using
- 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



Home Safety

- Secure your home by locking every door (including the garage door) while away, no matter how short a time you will be gone
- Place lights on timers; make it look like someone is home

- Leave window shades in normal positions if you are going away, even just overnight
- Set your security alarm every time you leave
- Festively wrapped packages are an invitation to burglars - place gifts where they can't be seen through doors or windows



Holiday Shopping Safety

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



Be a Good Neighbor

- Know your neighbors, their children and their cars
- Report suspicious activity no matter how small
- Offer to watch your neighbor's home while he is away, and ask him to do the same for you
- Start or join a Neighborhood Watch

KILLEEN UP!

The City is offering special collection of excess holiday trash. Place trash at curbside in bags or boxes at least four feet from your roll-out container by 7 am on your special collection day:

<u>Regular Day</u>	<u>Special Day</u>
Monday	December 28
Tuesday	December 29
Thursday	December 31
Friday	January 1

Reminder: the city collects trash on holidays, so remember to put your can out on your regular collection day.

GO GREEN KILLEEN!

The annual Keep Killeen Beautiful Christmas tree recycling event is your chance go green when your tree turns brown.

Residents are invited to drop off live Christmas trees January 9 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Special Events Center, 3301 S. W.S. Young Drive. Be sure all decorations are removed.

Trees will be chipped and shredded then offered back as landscaping mulch.

Rather than leaving your tree at the curb to be placed in the landfill, recycle it.

GRK

GET ON-BOARD!

flykilleen.net

Killeen - Fort Hood Regional Airport

HOLIDAY TRAVEL MADE EASY

Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport is all about convenience. We hope that if you choose to fly this holiday season you do it with us.

Not only is it the closest airport to home, but it also offers easy parking, quick check in and short security lines. Be sure to type in airport code GRK when making your flight arrangements.

Skip the hustle, bustle and hassle this holiday season and Fly Killeen!

SURVEY SAYS?

Killeen is conducting a Parks Master Plan Study, and we need to know what you want.

Take the survey at
KilleenTexas.gov/Parks

START THE SEASON

Celebrate Killeen will start the holiday season November 28 with a holiday tree lighting and movie at the Community Center.

Santa will arrive from the North Pole at 6 pm to light the 50-foot holiday tree. He'll stay to visit with good boys and girls and take pictures until 7 pm.

After the tree lighting, *The Polar Express* will show on the big screen at the Amphitheater. Bring blankets, get cozy and enjoy the movie under the stars.



Santa's
North Pole
Helpers

Santa's Helpers are collecting letters from boys and girls in Killeen! Just drop your child's letter in the box at the Family Recreation Center November 18, and Killeen's elves will make sure it gets to Santa at 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!

LET'S TALK TURKEY

Join the City of Killeen and HEB for the 8th annual Feast of Sharing community meal December 15th from 4 to 8 pm at Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

The Feast of Sharing is free and open to everyone. Live entertainment, fun activities and delicious holiday food is sure to spread the holiday cheer!

Volunteers and participants are welcome. For more information, contact Volunteer Services at 501-7878.

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES DECEMBER 12

A full day of FREE, festive, family fun is planned December 12 in historic Downtown Killeen.

"Sleigh bells ring, are you listening?" That's the sound of the 53rd annual Killeen Christmas Parade! This year's theme is "Christmas Wonderland" bringing all the magic of the holidays to Downtown with more than 100 parade entries.

The parade begins at 4:30pm then winds its way through historic Downtown. The parade route is Avenue D, to Gray Street, to Sprott Avenue, to 2nd Street, to Avenue B. For a map of the route, visit the



City's website at www.killeentexas.gov. The best viewing spots go quickly, so arrive early to find yours.

Be sure to come Downtown before the parade for Holiday Under the Stars from noon to 4 pm at

Green Avenue Park. Free activities will include a kiddie train ride, arts & crafts, a petting zoo and much more. Food and craft vendors will also participate.

For more information about these holiday events or to register to be in the parade, call Volunteer Services at 501-7878.

NIGHT LIGHTS

Have you been called the Griswolds because your holiday lights are so bright? Then 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 rflores-achmad@killeentexas.gov by December 7.

Online voting for favorites will be December 8 through 15. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be announced December 18.

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

JINGLE BELL DASH

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell dash! The Jingle Bell Dash 5K is December 5 at 8 am at Lions Club Park.

Go to www.killeentexas.gov/centex to register or for more information on this and upcoming Cen-Tex races.

PASS THE SYRUP

Love pancakes and Santa? Breakfast in Toyland will be December 5 from 8 to 10 am at Lions Club Park Senior Center.



Kids and kids at heart can enjoy a full pancake breakfast for \$5. Santa will be there to hear wish lists and take photos.

MORE ON CITY HOLIDAY EVENTS

KilleenTexas.gov
Facebook.com/KilleenTexas