

CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

May 29, 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 30th – Classic Car Hop at Kilgore Mercantile and Music 5pm
- May 30th – Atwoods Ranch and Home Kilgore Blood Drive
- June 6th – Tractors, Trucks, and Fun, Downtown Kilgore
- **June 9th – City Council Meeting ***CANCELLED*****
- **June 23rd – Regular City Council Meeting**
- **July 4th - Fourth of July Extravaganza at City Park**

PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- East Lantrip drainage outfall was completed last week and held up well through Sunday's rains.
- Street crews poured a new double gutter on Crescent to improve drainage.
- Henderson Blvd was temporarily reduced to one lane at Richards St while crews began replacing the 2-inch water main on Richards. Tapping the old case iron waterline did cause a water main break, crews repaired it quickly with little inconvenience save for low pressure at Brookshires.
- Maintenance completed several projects at the fire stations including: lowering a drain at Station 3, running new water and electrical for a bunker gear washer at Central Station, and helping complete the necessary steps for the generator at Station 2.
- Maintenance helped identify restrooms in all city owned facilities for touchless fixture upgrades for Covid-19.
- Parks crew members have spent many hours on mowing, weed eating, and maintenance prep at Meadowbrook Golf Course for the Mudbug annual golf tournament.
- Parks crew has cleaned up and removed trees on Fritz Swanson Rd that were downed by past storms.
- With the immoderate amount of debris citizens are removing from their yards caused by the storms high winds, the city is utilizing two grappler trucks for the stockpile.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- KFD will be welcoming new firefighter, Christy Fairchild, on June 1st.
- We are continuing to work with TIFMUS and the HHSC for testing and inspecting nursing homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- KPD sponsored a "Cruise Night" in downtown Kilgore on May 16th. Although there was some rain, it was still attended well.
- KPD was awarded an Electronic Cigarette Grant. The School Resource Officers will embark on a program to educate our students on the risk of E-cig use and the enforcement of illegal sales to minors.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- The City has hired a part time Main Street Coordinator, Meredith Brown. She will be working in the office on Fridays. Her main focus will be helping plan some of the Main Street larger events that happen throughout the year. Staff is very happy to welcome Meredith to our family.
- The next Main Street event will be on June 6th. The event, "Tractors, Trucks, and Fun" will be from 10am to 2pm in Historic Downtown Kilgore. Everyone can come downtown and look at all types of tractors. A tractor parade and tractor games are just some of the events that will be happening.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- The wayfinding signage project seems to be on schedule. Staff is working on obtaining a couple of easements with property owners in areas that there is very little right of way, but is a good location for placement of signs.
- Staff has set a meeting with the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee for June 24, 2020 and have set a goal for August to be completed with the plan and ready for implementation.
- The Kilgore City Pool is on schedule for opening June 13th!
- Popeyes and Daiquiri Express are approximately 45 days out from opening.
- We are making preparations to tear down the building at 501 Fritz Swanson.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

- The Library was able to get the UV light sanitation area set up with Greg Howell's help. This allows us to sanitize our books much faster and to sanitize items shared among staff like phones, keyboard, mice, etc.
- There will be an article in this Saturday's Kilgore News Herald about the library's summer reading program. Registration for the Summer Reading program begins this week!

Highlight of the Week- Installation of Prototype Welcome to Kilgore sign

The "Welcome to Kilgore" sign was placed at the City limits location on Hwy 42S/Industrial Blvd this week. This sign serves as the first test case for the new design. The novel and familiar design by James Draper takes cues from many Kilgore landmarks including the Crim Theater, Community Inn, City Logo, and the Drive in Theater Marquis. The project was headed up by Code Compliance Officer, Justin Windham, and makes use of the brick façade and concrete foundation from the previous Welcome signs, saving between \$8 – 15 thousand per sign as compared to a ground up build. The main letters will be backlit with LED and the "Welcome to" portion will be illuminated from the front once electrical service is installed later this year. There are a few tweaks to colors and contrasting that will be made prior to installation at the other 5 locations. Based on feedback from the 5/28/20 Facebook post, the sign is a hit, with one viewer vowing to drive in from Kentucky for a photo-op.

