

# CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

July 31, 2020

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 11<sup>th</sup> – City Council Workshop 5:30pm
- August 19<sup>th</sup> – First day of school for KISD
- August 25<sup>th</sup> – Regular City Council Meeting 5:30pm
- Tuesdays and Thursdays – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. – COVID testing at Kilgore ER Parking area

## PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- Approximately 500 tons of asphalt (3/4 mile) were laid down on Trails Phase II this week.
- We had several large water main breaks last week. Our crews have been working tirelessly to keep things flowing while the dry weather, with periods of rain, kept the ground shifting and breaking the older brittle pipes.
- Coordinated with SWEPCO to get several issues around the city resolved: a broken meter at City Park, a broken light on Wood St, a broken security light at Meadowbrook Park, and a blown secondary jack at the Texan Theater.
- The count was finalized on touchless fixtures needed for city owned restrooms and we are working with local vendors to select the appropriate models.
- Working to find solar lighting that will meet city needs for multiple areas in the parks.
- Prepared Whataburger Sports Complex for church softball use.
- Algae growth on the Splashpad has been accelerated by the weather, and we have adjusted our pressure washing schedule accordingly,

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- The Fire Department has continued to head up the Mobile COVID-19 testing at Good Shepherd ER on Tuesday 9am-1pm and Thursday (new time) 9am-1pm.
- The Fire Department hosted their new hire test on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup>. We have 3 current openings.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

- The Downtown has several businesses open recently. Please take some time to stop by for a visit, shopping, or eating: Coffee and a Biscuit, Geektopia-RC Comics, Josey Wales Antiques and More, and Euphoria Botanicals.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- Kilgore sponsored a "Tire Takeback" on July 18<sup>th</sup>. We received and removed 1108 tires! At **1000** mosquitos per tire that is over **1 million** mosquitos we removed from our area per season!
- Popeye's passed their final inspection on July 30<sup>th</sup> and is ready to open.
- The Planning Department is working on several ordinance amendments to the development code that will be heard at the August City Council Meeting.
- The Planning Department continues to work with Freese and Nichols on the virtual videos and surveys for the Comprehensive Plan. We anticipate that the videos and surveys will launch to the public in the next 2-3 weeks.

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

- The Summer Reading Program ended last Friday. We had the same number of adults and teens finish the program as last summer which is great news since our participation by children was lower this year. We are handing out prizes this week and can't wait to see the excitement of our readers as they come to claim them.

***Highlight of the Week-*** Monday through Wednesday of this week, volunteers including several City staff members constructed the City's first fully ADA accessible playground, Friendship Playground. The construction is just about complete except for the installation of a slide, the rockin' raft, and surfacing and sidewalks. These features cannot be completed until the concrete sets and leveling can take place. Our volunteers and staff did a wonderful job and worked extremely hard for the whole three day build. Our contractor was very impressed with the turnout and hard work of all of our volunteers. Over the next few weeks the features will be finished and the pour in place surfacing will be installed. Our ribbon cutting is tentatively set for August 28<sup>th</sup>. Click [here](#) for the news story or [here](#) for a time lapse video of the build.

