

CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

November 13, 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 1st-30th – Shop Small Win Big Campaign
- November 12th-15th – Reel East Texas Film Festival
- November 14th – A Very Derrick Christmas – Downtown 3pm – 8pm
- **November 17th – Special Called Council Meeting 5:30 pm**
- **November 26th and 27th – City Hall Offices closed for Thanksgiving Holidays**
- November 28th – Mingle and Jingle- Downtown 6pm-9pm
- November 28th – Kilgore Car Cruise In Downtown 5pm
- Tuesdays and Thursdays – 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – COVID testing at Kilgore ER Parking area

PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- The Streets & Drainage Crew is finishing up a large concrete road repair at the intersection of Thompson St and Richards St which includes an exposed aggregate finish to better blend with the existing pavement.
- The last phase of Wayfinding signage is approved and ready for the contractor to fabricate and install an additional 22 signs.
- Installation of automated flushing fixtures is complete in most city buildings
- Installation of auto soap dispensers and auto faucets is ongoing with the assistance of Smith Plumbing.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Battalion Commander Jason Cottrell was recognized for 20 years of service with the KFD this month.
- KFD will be hosting a new hire test December 7th and a Driver/Engineer promotional exam December 15th.
- Cadet Joshua Stelly was sworn in during a short ceremony in the training facility. Officer Stelly has been assigned to Patrol and is in training. Josh came to us from Longview as a certified Firefighter and Paramedic.
- Our DEA Task Force Officer Josh Vercher and Narcotics Investigator Todd Nault have made several high profile arrests lately, but we've not yet released full details.
- KPD participated in the annual Downtown Halloween event. The staff volunteer for this community-based program every year. Several of them dressed up.
- The KPD Facebook page exceeded 20,000 followers and last week we earned a five star rating from followers.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- A Very Derrick Christmas will be held on November 14 from 3-8 pm in Historic Downtown Kilgore. Entertainment, visit from Santa, live music, and shopping are on the agenda for the evening. The lighting of the derricks will be at 7pm.
- Mingle and Jingle is scheduled for Saturday, November 28 from 6-9 pm in Historic Downtown Kilgore. This event is sponsored by Kilgore Main Street and the Downtown Merchants.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- The on-line survey to give feedback on the draft copy of the Kilgore Comprehensive Plan will end on Monday, November 16. Currently 325 surveys have been submitted. You still have time to submit your survey [here](#).
- Staff met with members of the Gregg County Historical Commission this week to discuss the upcoming historical survey within the Kilgore City Limits. January is the projected date to begin on the project.

- Permit issued for Boonies Restaurant at 107 N. Kilgore St.
- Permit issued for Kilgore Urgent Care at 2826 S. Henderson Blvd.
- Construction has begun on the Dairy Queen site at Henderson Blvd and Lantrip St.

LIBRARY

- The Friends of the Library and Kilgore Public Library created 100 pine cone Christmas tree take and make crafts for the Lighting of the Derricks even this Saturday.
- The library has started a Teen Book Box subscription program. Signups for the December Teen Book Boxes open up on November 25th. These boxes are hand selected for teens that sign up based on their interests. Some items in the box are theirs to keep and some come back to us. You can see more details [here](#).
- Thanks to the Parks Department for helping bring up our Christmas décor from the basement. We have begun our endeavor to transform the library into a Christmas Wonderland and could not do it without their help.

Highlight of the Week – Saying Farewell to Council Member Mike Sechrist-

Councilmember Mike Sechrist has served the City of Kilgore Council in the Place 3 position since 2018. Mike was born and raised in Kilgore, worked in the telecommunications industry for 37 years and has taught Math and Workforce Development at Kilgore College.

Mr. Sechrist has been a tremendous asset to the City. With his quiet confidence and ability to simplify complex issues, we all listened intently when he spoke. Mike’s uncanny ability to know when to make a motion and move on to the next item made him very popular with both Council and Staff.

We all want to thank Mike for the time and dedication that he gave to the City organization and the positive impact that he has had on Kilgore through his service.

