

CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

January 15, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 18th – City Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Day
- January 18th – Kilgore Men of Alliance MLK Celebration at the Texan 9 a.m – 12 p.m.
- **January 26th – City Council Workshop 5:30 p.m.**

PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- The Streets Crew spent 5 hours on Sunday, January 10th sanding the roads during the winter storm.
- Hwy 259 Business, across from All Star Ford, had a water main break that was repaired with the joint effort of the Collection & Distribution and Streets & Drainage crews. The asphalt repair was delayed due to the asphalt plant being closed due power and electrical issues from the recent winter storm. Asphalt was sourced from a different plant and the repair was completed this morning.
- Emergency Generators were deployed to wells #3 and # 9 because of an extended power outage at the well field. Water levels were falling but power was restored prior to any water restrictions being required. There will be instances of red water in the coming days as we refill the tanks because of upsets in the chemical treatment during the power outage.
- The Parks Department has placed the new banners Downtown and removed the Christmas Tree.
- The concrete pad for the irrigation project at the City Park has been poured.
- The benches and new signs have been ordered for the New Dog Park.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Station 3 reconstruction is in the final stages of completion with crews moving back at the end of the month.
- Fire is currently finishing up testing and peer reviews for new hires and promotions. We should have everyone in place by the first of February. We will be promoting three Drivers and one Captain.
- After the Police Department completed their final submissions of the year to the state for the Uniform Crime Report, we learned that while we had slight variations within individual categories, our overall crime remained neutral. With the economic downturn and lockdown, we were not certain how that would impact crime. In 2019, we had a 19% decrease in our overall crime, so to be able to hold steady is very pleasing.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- The City of Kilgore and Downtown Businesses received an award from KIBA for the Christmas Window displays.
- The Main Street Department has completed the yearly report to Texas Main Street that is due today.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- Demolition is under way on the old Regions Bank building and the pad for Chick-fil-A is being constructed.
- The framing on the Quick Care and Dairy Queen is complete
- Lane Fitness Center at Kilgore College is nearing completion. They are finalizing the fire alarm system.
- There will be a joint workshop with the Planning and Zoning Board and City Council regarding the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Kilgore on February 2, 2021 at 5:30 at Kilgore City Hall.
- The Planning and Zoning Board will meet on January 20, 2021 at 8:30 am. On the Agenda is the rezone request for property located at 1009 Brook Drive. This is the location of the previous Kilgore College Child Development Center. The zone change request is a change from Single Family Residential (R2) to General Commercial (GC). The developer would like to construct a multi-tenant commercial complex.

LIBRARY

- Kilgore News Herald had a great article on our new Youth Services Librarian, Kay Stidham, which also made the weekly [news brief](#) of the Texas Library Association.
- We have hired two new part time staff members: Stephanie Hawkins and Travis Noriega. We are excited to have these new staff members!
- [Wizardry School](#) Started Monday.
- [Money for Kids Saving Starter Kits](#) are still available.
- WE have expanded our [Book Box program](#) to include not only teens but also adults and kids ages 8-12. It has proven to be very popular.