

CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

July 16, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Texas Shakespeare Festival continues.
- July 17th – Dive in Movie at the City Pool showing “Raya and The Last Dragon” at 8 p.m. Admission is free.
- July 20th – Main Street Advisory Board Meeting 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- **July 27th – Regular City Council Meeting**
- August 14th - Dive in Movie at the City Pool showing “Godzilla vs Kong” at 8 p.m. Admission is free.
- Oktober 16th – KILGORE OKTOBERFEST!!! 1 – 9 P.M. in Historic Downtown Kilgore

HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK

This week’s highlight involves creative recycling and illustrates how great it is to live in a community like Kilgore where it’s easy to make good things happen. This week, City staff assisted Kilgore College by beginning demolition of some of the handrails on spiral walkways from the old pedestrian bridge. Pictured below, City street crew members Roderick Davis and Gregory Johnson can be seen cutting away curved sections of the handrail. The spiral walkway is awaiting demolition later this year which will pave the way for the new ADA compliant walkway to be built. Several months ago, Kilgore Mayor Ronnie Spradlin mentioned to a group of BigHead Creek Trail volunteers that the curved sections of heavy iron handrail might work as structural members like those used in features at high-end BMX and mountain bike parks. After further investigation, the volunteer trail builders agreed that the radius and size of the handrails we're perfect for multiple trail features that were already planned, but that were on hold awaiting funding to come in from donations and fundraisers. With permission from Kilgore College, City staff assisted the volunteers with removal of the materials which will be put to use at the BigHead Creek Mountain Bike trail later this summer and fall. Check out the BigHead Creek MTB Facebook page for more info on this great new amenity.



PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- We have experienced turnover in a number of positions at our Water Treatment facilities. We have identified other resources within our staff and from outside sources to continue water treatment operations with no anticipated disruption to our citizens.
- Collection and Distribution staff have completed the installation of a waterline at Karolina and Henderson Blvd to replace a leaking 2-inch line that was crossing private property.
- Wastewater Plant personnel are working with Heritage Crystal Clean to come into compliance with our Industrial Waste Ordinance and State law requirements.
- Street and Drainage crews completed the removal of remaining asphalt on Main Street and repaired a failing section of pavement in a public alley off Martin near to Bob Davis Sales and Panther Fabrication.
- Brush pickup operations have continued uninterrupted since the retirement of Roger Hulsey.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- KFD has 2 candidates in the final screening stage in our hiring process. We are 3 short from being fully staffed.
- Firefighter William Cunningham has returned to KFD part time.
- Hurray for Heroes Parade was put on for the FD and PD on July 1st and was a great success.
- KPD recovered two stolen vehicles from a suspected drug dealer's residence. The investigation continues into the resident of this home.
- A fatality crash investigation is ongoing for a bicyclist who rode into traffic and was struck by a truck on Hwy 42 N near Brookshires. KPD was praised by citizens for the response of the Chaplain/Victim Services Coordinator, Mr. Latham. He was instrumental in assisting the bicyclist's family.
- The ongoing Indecent Assault case at a local nail salon has brought forth many additional victims.

QUALITY OF LIFE AND TOURISM

- Oktoberfest is scheduled for October 16th from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Planning is underway and we are in need of vendors. Please contact Taylor Owings at taylor.owings@cityofkilgore.com for more information.
- The second-quarter reporting and investment report to Texas Main Street has been completed. Main Street designated cities are required to do a quarterly report on the progress of the city main street program and an investment report.
- The next Main Street Advisory Board will be held on Tuesday, July 20th at 5:30 p.m. at Kilgore City Hall.
- Visit Kilgore created over 215 welcome bags and 250 welcome guides for the Dixie Youth Baseball AAA South Texas State Regional Tournament held here in Kilgore. There were over 16 baseball teams that visited Kilgore as a part of this tournament.
- For the 2021 Texas Shakespeare Season, Visit Kilgore produced and printed Downtown Shopping Guides for visitors attending the Festival.
- Visit Kilgore is producing a fall print and digital campaign that promotes experiences and events such as Oktoberfest.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- The Kilgore Community Development Corporation has a meeting date set for Monday, July 19th at 1:30 p.m.
- Staff met with consultants from Freese and Nichols last week to discuss items they have identified as issues with the Kilgore Development Code. This includes both zoning and subdivision regulations. Their next step will be to recommend changes to the codes to resolve issues.
- Building permit has been issued for an office building at 2019 N State Hwy 135.
- Asbestos inspection reports complete and state notified for demolition of 3 houses on Rogers St.
- Daily attendance at the City Pool continues to be double as from previous years.
- Windows for the Pool House are being delivered and installation is scheduled for next week.

LIBRARY

- Kilgore Library had around 75 patrons join us for Shark Tooth Necklace making on July 13th.
- July 23rd is the last day to log reading activities for the 2021 Summer Reading Program “Tails and Tales.”
- The Library’s upcoming events can be seen [here](#).
- [Farm Day](#) at the City Park is July 27th.
- Homeschool Resource Day:

