

# CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

February 25, 2022

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 25<sup>th</sup> – NASA – Ready...Set....Launch event 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the East Texas Oil Museum
- March 5 - 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Downtown Art Walk and Sip N Shop, sponsored by the downtown merchants
- **March 8<sup>th</sup> – Regular City Council Meeting – 5:30 p.m. at Kilgore City Hall**
- March 12<sup>th</sup> – Kilgore Legacy Foundation Ball - 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
- March 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – KISD Spring Break
- **March 22<sup>th</sup> – Regular City Council Meeting – 5:30 p.m. at Kilgore City Hall**
- April 5<sup>th</sup> - 11:30 – is the first Tuesday at the World's Richest Acre in Downtown Kilgore.

## HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK

### K9 Drogon

Drogon is a young Malinois that was purchased through our Police Department's forfeiture funds. He comes to us with a one year health and performance guarantee. He was trained by LA K-9. He is considered a patrol dog which means he can track lost persons or suspects, sniff out lost or discarded articles, conduct building searches, narcotics detection, and handler protection. He is very social. His partner, Charles Taylor, spent approximately a month at LA K-9 and has received his handler certification. Drogon also received his required narcotics certificates.



## CHAMBER AWARDS

- Main Street Merchants racked up big wins last night at the Chamber Awards banquet: Kim Pollard, owner of Josey Wales took home the Citizens Choice Award; Jacque Henley owner of Everything That Blings won two awards: IPR and Women Owned Business; Expert Lawn Care won Minority Business of the Year; Kilgore Mercantile and Music won Business of the Year.
- Friend of the City and iconic leader of the Shakespeare Festival Guild and Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation, Sue Brown, won the well-deserved Citizen of the Year Award for her life-long efforts an incredible place to live and visit
- City Manager, Josh Selleck, won the STAR Award (Success, Traditions, Achievements, and Relationships)

## PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- Streets and Drainage, Collection and Distribution, and Parks Employees participated in a 4 day backhoe training program provided by UT Arlington's TXLTAP program.
- Three replacement pickups have been up-fitted and released into our active fleet; we are still waiting on two additional trucks to arrive from the FY21 order.
- Staff began filling the surface water treatment plant to test the installation of new pumps and valves.
- Automated meter upgrade is 65% complete and office staff are being trained in the new software this week.
- Parks Crew removed hazardous dead tree from the walking trail.
- Green Waste mulching has been completed.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- Kilgore Fire Department has hired two new full-time Firefighters from our part time bank: Stephen Harvey and Casey Stepherson. They will both start full time before the end of the month.
- The Kilgore Fire Department has been extremely busy the last few weeks. Wildland fires are on the rise due to dry and windy conditions, along with an uptick in structure fires and motor vehicle accidents. Hopefully with recent rains, it will slow down.
- Kilgore Rescue Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator Ryan Riley has completed his ICS 400 Training.
- Kilgore Police Department is continuing to recruit and conduct background investigations for police officers.
- Congratulations to the candidates who will be promoted following KPD's recent promotional process. Joey Chitwood and Mitch Autrey will be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Steve Goodson, BJ Burns, and Josh Vercher will be promoted to the rank of Sergeant.
- We would like to welcome Jessica Betts, who was hired and started this week as full-time dispatcher.
- Detective Johnston worked a trailer theft case, identified the suspect, and obtained felony warrants for him. It turns out the suspect had committed offenses across three states with over 100 victims and over \$! Million dollars in loss. This will be prosecuted as a Federal case.
- Detective Sims worked on a child porn case related to a local victim. Det. Sims identified the suspect from the Dallas area and was able to coordinate a search warrant. Det. Sims obtained a full confession from the suspect. This case will be federally prosecuted as well.
- 35 members of Clergy and Police Alliance (CAPA) recently met for their quarterly meeting.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- Staff presented a plan at Tuesday's Council Workshop related to reorganizing the development code so contractors, developers, citizens, etc. are able to better understand the development process.
- Development Services continues to add web accessibility to our codes, checklists, construction guides, and permitting processes.
- Commercial new construction permit issued for Sparklight Communication building located on Longview Street.
- Commercial remodel permit issued for 1101 Stone Street, Suite 103 for a Great Clips.

## LIBRARY

- The Library has created a page on the website to showcase all of the [NASA @ My Library Events](#). We also got quite a bit of media coverage for the event: [CBS 19](#), [msn.com](#), and [The Gilmer Mirror](#).
- Pictures are attached from the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Bilingual class from Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Students participated in a variety of NASA and space related activities.

### Backhoe Training



### Tree Removal from Trail



### Library Bilingual Classes



KILGORE COLLEGE EAST TEXAS OIL MUSEUM  
AND THE KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENT

# NASA

READY... SET... LAUNCH!

**FEBRUARY 25 | 3-6 P.M.**

COME & GO FREE EVENT  
AT THE KILGORE COLLEGE  
EAST TEXAS OIL MUSEUM

SCIENCE ACTIVITIES,  
& SPACE EXHIBITS

