

# CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

April 14, 2022

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Every Tuesday in April and May at 11:30 a.m. is Tunes Day at the World's Richest Acre in Downtown Kilgore.
- Every Saturday Kilgore Farmer's Market – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Commerce St. near the Depot.
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> – The "Male" Room – 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Post Office
- **April 26<sup>th</sup> – Regular City Council Meeting – 5:30 p.m. at Kilgore City Hall**
- May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – Geekend – Downtown Kilgore
- May 3 – Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Roy H. Laird Regional Medical Center
- **May 10<sup>th</sup> – Regular City Council Meeting – 5:30 p.m. at Kilgore City Hall**

## PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- Parks Department is preparing for the opening of the Splash Pad on May 7th.
- Parks Department is power washing all of the pavilions in the parks.
- Parks Department put the final touches on a 20" x 30" equipment shed at the Whataburger Sports Complex. The equipment shed will allow equipment used by the operator of the facility and city to be secured and kept out of the weather.
- Construction has begun on the shade structures at the Skate Park. The Skate Park will be closed for a few days during this week, and hopefully be open for the weekend.
- A new waterline on Lantrip Street (front Longview St. to just past School St.) is a little over halfway installed. During installation it was also discovered that the storm pipe was beginning to have a separated joint which got repaired during backfill.
- Staff has compiled a list of approximately 40 utility strikes (\$37,000 of repairs) resulting from the recent flurry of fiber line installations in town and will be coordinating reimbursement with each of the responsible parties.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- The Kilgore Fire Department hosted the Texas Fire Commission Compliance Officer this week for our 2 year audit. They audited our training, certifications, and annual testing of necessary equipment. This helps to regulate that we are doing everything possible to keep our citizens and Firefighters safe. We passed with ease due to teamwork and dedicated employees.
- With high winds and drier conditions, we have seen a major uptick in wildland fires. KFD and Rescue have done an amazing job at keeping the damages minimal and have published .
- Kilgore Rescue member Josh Moore is attending EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) training. This training teaches the skills to provide immediate lifesaving interventions while waiting on EMS resources to arrive.
- KPD recently held the official promotion ceremony honoring Lt. Joey Chitwood, Lt. Mitch Autrey, Sgt. BJ Burns, Sgt. Stephen Goodson and Sgt. Joshua Vercher. Congratulations to these gentlemen! (pic attached)
- Aaron Sosa completed his required course work and successfully challenged the TCOLE licensing exam. Officer Sosa was sworn in as a Texas Peace Officer last Tuesday and was assigned to start field training the following day. (pic attached)
- We recently underwent a TCIC audit of our dispatch records as well as our gang files. Overall, the audit went very well, and the auditor was very complimentary of our staff and their thoroughness.
- On April 6, KPD was contacted regarding a gunshot victim that was in a Longview hospital. Authorities had reason to believe the incident occurred inside our city limits. Two crime scenes were soon located and search warrants obtained. Within just a few hours, a suspect was identified and later arrested on a warrant for Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. This was a great job by our staff in bringing a quick resolution to this investigation.

- Our officers are continuing to take a tough stance on drugs. We have had several recent narcotics related arrests, and our staff will continue to be proactive in sending a message that illicit drugs will not be tolerated in our city.
- Lt. Joey Chitwood and Det. Joey Johnston received a Letter of Commendation for their actions following a local Amber Alert in August 2021. After receiving a call from Texas Rangers who believed the abductor had been in our Walmart the night before, their intuition told them the abductor may have stayed at a local hotel. They rushed out and drove directly to Motel 6 where they found the suspect loading up to leave with the two children. Had they not driven directly to Motel 6, they would have missed them leaving. Because of their quick thinking, they stopped this abductor before he could get onto the I-20 and disappear. Those children are home with their parents because of these two Detectives. (pic attached)
- April 10 - 16 is National Telecommunicators Week. We have some of the best dispatchers in the area. When they arrive at work, these men and women never know what will be on the other end of the calls they will take that day. They handle each situation they are faced with in a calm, professional manner to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens and first responders. We appreciate their hard work and dedication.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- The City Council approved a 92 acre annexation at the Tuesday, April 12 City Council Meeting. The property is located east of the city limit and will be developed with large lot residential homes.
- The Planning and Zoning Board will meet on April 20 to discuss a zone change request at 901 Broadway to change from a Local Commercial District to an Apartment District.
- An ordinance was passed at the last City Council meeting prohibiting truck traffic along Synergy Boulevard in the Synergy Park Industrial Park
- Certificate of Completion has been issued for 1101 Stone Rd. for the Great Clips remodel.
- A Commercial Building permit was issued for 917 Couch Ave for a new construction of a laundry mat.
- A total of 49 permits were issued in March.
- Kilgore College Health Science Center and Christus Good Shepherd Clinic have completed the review process and permits are ready to be issued.

## QUALITY OF LIFE/TOURISM

- Tunes Day at the Acre continues every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. You can read the lineup [here](#).
- The Farmer's Market began April 2<sup>nd</sup> and has been a huge hit. Vendors have lined the streets and even sold out of product. We hope this continues to be a great weekend outing for years to come!

## LIBRARY

- The Kilgore Library is seeking help purchasing items from our Amazon Wish List for the Summer Reading Program. You can go to this [link](#) to shop.
- Connect with Your Library (reading incentive program) is going on through the month of April
- Around 21 hobbies are on display for the 2022 Hobby Fair. Please come by and take a look!
- East Texas Giving Day is April 26<sup>th</sup>. Donate to the Friends of the Kilgore Public Library [here](#).



**SKATE PARK SHADE STRUCTURES**



**LANTRIP ST. WATER LINE**



**KPD PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY**



**OFFICER SOSA SWEARING IN**



**KPD LETTERS OF ACCOMODATION**

