

# CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

April 29, 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.
- May 3 – Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Roy H. Laird Regional Medical Center – 10:30 a.m.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – Geekend – Downtown Kilgore
- **May 10<sup>th</sup> – Regular City Council Meeting – 5:30 p.m. at Kilgore City Hall**
- **May 24<sup>th</sup> - Regular City Council Meeting – 5:30 p.m. at Kilgore City Hall**

## PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- Mechanic, Richard Myers, will be retiring from the City on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate his many years of service to help maintain the City's vehicles and equipment.
- Beginning May 2<sup>nd</sup>, a contractor for TXDOT will be replacing the bridge on Pentecost over Bighead Creek. Expect no through traffic for up to 4 months.
- Aggressive flushing to maintain water quality caused some low pressure problems in the City on Wednesday afternoon. Crews are continuing to monitor the water system.
- We had an excited visitor waiting for us Monday morning at the Wastewater Plant (see attached photo).
- Construction has been completed on the shade structures at the Skate Park.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- The Kilgore Fire Department has and will participate in many events. The Kilgore College Crawfish Boil, Kilgore Middle School Career Day, and a Fire Extinguisher Class at CHEP services. It is always our pleasure to engage with the citizens of Kilgore, especially our youth group.
- Our Fire Department and Rescue have been extremely busy working together on wildland fires, structure fires, and motor vehicle accidents. We are very proud of what they are accomplishing together as a team.
- KPD Administration attended the annual Chief's Conference. During the awards luncheon we were awarded the "Vincible Award." Vincible is a state-wide officer safety program that KPD has been involved with for many years. Our agency utilizes the weekly training and we make the safety principles part of our culture. We also collaborate on the state-wide training with the Safety Committee. On occasion, we've shared information with the committee that shows the training does work and is making a difference in policing. The overall goal of the program is to lower officer deaths and injuries.
- Last year, the City and Gregg County entered into an MOU for the county to utilize the radio tower on Longview Street for their new radio system. In turn, we will be able to utilize this system for free once we have the equipment. The City upgraded the building that houses the radio equipment to meet the new standards. The new building is specific to our needs, is hardened, and has a proper climate-controlled system with built-in redundancy. Our current equipment is being moved into this building so that in time we will have a true backup system for the city.
- Retired Sergeant, Vance Callahan, started back to work part-time for KPD. We've had a PT Police officer in the past, and it is beneficial to our agency. Too often we are at shift minimums, and we have to use overtime to fill positions. Vance doesn't require any additional training and can assist us immediately.
- Hiring is still ongoing in the jail, dispatch, and Patrol.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- At the last City Council meeting, an annexation was approved that helped pave the way for a new large lot subdivision located just north of the intersection of Stone Road and FM 2276.
- Two rezoning requests will be reviewed by Planning and Zoning Board at the next meeting: 1) Southwest corner of Stone Rd. and Danville Rd. The request will be for the development of duplex style apartment homes. 2) Site plan approval for the recently annexed property located just north of FM 2276 and Stone Rd intersection.
- Five single-family home building permit applications have been received. The new homes are located in the Remington North subdivision developed by the Kilgore Community Development Corporation.
- Several lots in the Remington North Subdivisions are being re-platted into larger lots.
- The City Council has approved a zoning request for the property located at 901 Broadway Blvd. The property was zoned to a multi-family zoning district to allow for the development of one-bedroom apartments.
- Demolitions have been completed for two abandoned homes.
- Since Jan 1, 2022, 90 health permits for retail food establishments and mobile food units have been issued.
- A demo permit for concessions and bathrooms has been issued for R.E. St. John Memorial Stadium.
- New addresses have been assigned and new construction building permits have been issued for Christus Good Shepherd Clinic and Roy H. Laird Health Science Center.

## 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 continues every Saturday on Commerce Street 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Preparation has begun at the city swimming pool for the upcoming season.
- Splash Pad will officially be opening May 7<sup>th</sup> for summer use.

## LIBRARY

- \$484 was raised for the Friends of the Kilgore Public Library on East Texas Giving Day 4/26/22.
- Friends of the Library Book Sale Explosion will be May 2<sup>nd</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 6pm.
- Cinco De Mayo Bilingual Story Celebration will be Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

## Our visitor at the Wastewater Plant



## Skate Park Shade Structures

