

# CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

August 12, 2022

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 17<sup>th</sup> – First Day of School
- August 18<sup>th</sup> – Boys & Girls Club dinner and bingo
- August 20<sup>th</sup> – Rangerette Showoffs
- **August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Regular City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m. at Kilgore City Hall**
- September 10<sup>th</sup> - Bags with Benefits Cornhole Classic at the Texan
- **September 13<sup>th</sup> – Regular City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m. at Kilgore City Hall**
- September 16<sup>th</sup> – KISD Homecoming
- September 17<sup>th</sup> – SAFFE Day

## HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK



The Kilgore Development Services team is excited to welcome Ryan Riley as incoming Fire Marshal. Special Services Director B.J. Owen said “I’ve watched Ryan juggle a diverse set of tasks over the past year and I have confidence in him and his personality, that he is the right person to assist the development community and all of our citizens as Fire Marshal.”

Ryan started with the City as a volunteer with the Rescue Unit several years ago and now serves as the Rescue Chief, Emergency Management Coordinator and was hired full time last year as the City’s Director of Parks and Facilities. In January, less than six months into his tenure as Parks Director, Ryan offered to begin the arduous process of being trained and certified to take on the role of the vacant Fire Marshal position. “The budget uncertainty of the past few years has made it difficult to recruit new employees and Ryan has consistently volunteered to take on temporary duties to help keep things running smoothly” said City Manager Josh Selleck. Clay Evers, Public Works Director, said “Ryan has proven to be a loyal and versatile team member and his continued professionalism is going to be a huge asset to the development services team.”

“Currently Ryan is filling two full-time positions for the City as well as several other special assignments, and we’ve known that is not sustainable” said Selleck. As a result, the City has been working to recruit a new Parks and Facilities Director. This will allow Ryan to focus on the role of Fire Marshal where he will incorporate the responsibilities of the Rescue Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator into that one position.

## PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- The Parks Crew has been doing a fantastic job of cleaning the Lazy Splash Pad. The Parks department employees clean the Splash Pad every Wednesday starting around 5:00 a.m. The cleaning process is not an easy task and usually takes 4-5 hours to complete. Our dedicated Parks employees come in 2 hours early to start this process so it can open on time.
- Public Works had its annual employee appreciation luncheon on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Policy updates and safety reminders were also covered.

- McInnis Brothers has officially taken over the Rabbit Creek Lift Station for rehabilitation and are actively by-pass pumping the line.
- Crews repaired a 16-inch water main on FM 349. The repair required water to be shut off to Synergy Park and rather than interrupt our commercial customers, several members volunteered to perform the work on Sunday morning. (picture attached).
- Our water treatment team is preparing to perform a chlorine conversion for our water system. This is a routine maintenance activity to help our water quality. Details are being delivered through our website, social media, and local news. See <http://www.cityofkilgore.com/chlorineconversion> for more details.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- The Fire Department responded to a structure fire at El Sombrero Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Due to quick actions, the fire was contained to only the kitchen area. As always, Fire, PD, and Rescue worked seamlessly together preventing the situation from being much worse. Fire Marshal Riley was on scene as well for the investigation.
- The Kilgore Fire Department recently renewed our Best Practices Certification for the 5<sup>th</sup> year straight. This ensures we are doing everything to keep our citizens and firefighters safe.
- KPD staff set up a booth for the Chamber of Commerce mixer at the Texan.
- KPD arranged for a 911 educational event for Kindergartners at the First Baptist Church. The staff from KPD and KC interacted with the children and played games while talking to them about the appropriate use of 911.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- The Planning Department has received an application for a site plan amendment for property located at 3511 Birdsong. The applicant is seeking a site plan amendment to add another unit to the already approved site plan.
- Bill Woodall, Community Relations Manager, did a spectacular interview with Bob Hallmark, KLTV, on the residential boom in the City of Kilgore. You can watch the video [here](#).
- In July, 51 permits were issued, including a demo permit for the carwash located at 913 Karolina St.
- A certificate of Business Occupancy was issued for Big Lots! Located at 98 Midtown Plaza. They opened on August 11<sup>th</sup> with a grand opening scheduled for a later date.

## QUALITY OF LIFE/TOURISM

- We wrapped up the City Pool season for guests on August 6<sup>th</sup> with approximately 11,021 attendees total.
- While the pool closed for humans on August 6<sup>th</sup>, we reopened for a few hours on August 7<sup>th</sup> to allow our 4 legged friends to cool off. We had 40 plus dogs enjoy the water with no fights or bites! Fun was had by all!
- City of Kilgore Tourism is gearing up for an active fall travel season. Visit Kilgore has completed multiple fall ads and will soon kick off a fresh digital marketing campaign focused on storytelling with updated visual content.
- Kilgore will be featured on Dallas CultureMap later this month, thanks to an EDA Grant Marketing Program Series with Travel Texas. We have seen continued success partnering with Travel Texas. Visit Kilgore website sessions are up 122% to 4,419 while pageviews are up 93% to 6,000.

## LIBRARY

- With the end of Summer Reading we are working on projects at the Library including weeding books and inventory. Stay tuned for programming updates coming up in September.

**PHOTOS**



*Kilgore* TEXAS  
**OKTOBERFEST**  
Beer | Music | Food

**OCTOBER 15, 2022 | 1-9 PM**

Kilgore's premiere fall event welcomes you back with beer, music, food and plenty of chicken dancing.

[KilgoreMainStreet.com](http://KilgoreMainStreet.com)

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

